Daily Report

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Failure To Check Israeli 'Repression'

LD1604181891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Brother leader and president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has addressed a message to our Palestinian people on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, in which he affirmed that the blessed intifadah of our people will continue until they wrest their established and inalienable national rights, including their right to return and self-determination and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

In his message, president leader Abu-'Ammar said that the masses of our people have proven their limitless ability to stand and confront and take the initiative, as well as their stubborn insistence on adhering to entrenched national demands.

He added that through their continued intifadah and jihad, the people of the al-Aqsa have succeeded in reminding the world that the priorities of the establishment of peace demand the acceptance of the national established rights of our people and dealing with the PLO instead of running about in the labyrinths of useless dialogues about forms of conferences and negotiations.

The brother leader and president Abu-'Ammar warned the world's peoples against irresponsible failure to check the brutal Israeli repression and the measures of settlements and confiscation of lands in the occupied homeland during the recent weeks. He said that the international community is asked to act urgently to provide protection immediately for the Palestine people now under occupation.

He addressed a special salute on the occasion of the 'Id to the heroic prisoners in the Israeli detention camps and to the wounded and to the families of the martyrs and detainees. He affirmed that the Israeli factor was and will remain the difficult factor in the Middle East equation, and no one can ignore or disregard it. He affirmed that there can be no peace, stability or security without realizing the established national rights of the Palestine people, including their rights to return, practice self-determination, and establish their free independent state in their national Palestinian homeland with Jerusalem as its capital.

He said that our people, our strugglers, and our fighters are moving with the current of history, and the inevitability of victory is a glittering fact whether the enemies like it or not; our enemies are acting against the current of history, but history shows no mercy.

Al-Husayni Views Provisional Government Concept

PM1604135391 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 12 Apr 91 p 5

[Report on telephone interview with Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni in Jerusalem by Nasr al-Majali in London; date not given: "Prospective Head of Palestinian Government Faysal Al-Husayni Tells SAWT AL-KUWAIT: We Trust the Kuwaiti Leadership, and Everything Is Possible in Connection With the Matter of the Palestinian Leadership"]

[Excerpts] A Palestinian leader from the occupied territory has accepted the principle of a Palestinian provisional government to enable the PLO and Palestinian action in general to end the isolation resulting from the position taken by the present Palestinian leadership on the Gulf war. But the leader in question, Faysal al-Husayni, who led the Palestinian delegation to last Tuesday's talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, declined to confirm or deny that he was the candidate to head such a government. Faysal al-Husayni is the son of martyr 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Husayni. [passage omitted]

In a telephone interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT in London from his home in occupied Jerusalem, he denied that the Israeli measures against him were merely meant to make him "look better." He added that "much has been said about that. From the reactions to the Israeli moves against me I felt that there were attempts to find an alternative leadership to the PLO on the inside." He continued: "Let's call a spade a spade. The PLO was a target even before the Gulf crisis, but that does not mean that change, if its aim is to fulfull our people's aspirations, would be rejected."

Al-Husayni also said: "We believe in the PLO as the body that confirms our existence and our identity, but the PLO has had numerous problems, including the Gulf crisis." Asked about these problems, he replied: "Let us be honest with ourselves. The United States had previously suspended the dialogue with the PLO, and the European states are becoming less enthusiastic about the Palestinian question in particular and Middle East questions in general. We are also beginning to face other problems with some Arab states. Furthermore, some are trying to put more emphasis on other forces, such as Hamas, and trying to deal with them under the intifadah with the aim of separating the people on the inside from their leadership abroad. So there were attempts to isolate the PLO before the Gulf crisis, which has now completed the isolation. That crisis undoubtedly led to complications and more PLO isolation."

Al-Husayni also said that "There are states that reject the PLO and its leadership but we say that, despite the objections to the PLO leadership, we, the Palestinian people, say that we are proud of the PLO representation, and we want the world to respect our will." But, on the other hand, he pointed out that "in political action differences do occur between leaderships and between

people and leadership. We respect others when they have disagreements but agree on the main objective. We want others to respect us equally. We have our own will, and we are capable of choosing our own leadership."

Asked about reports on the formation of a provisional government under him, a figure known for his moderate stands and Arab and international contacts, al-Husayni, who comes from a prominent Palestinian family that historically held leading positions in Palestine, said: "Under our Palestinian democracy we have a National Council. It could meet soon and it could confirm the current leadership or change it in the interest of the Palestinian people."

On the question of a provisional government, al-Husayni said: "It is premature to talk about that. If the aim of such a government is to end the isolation, that would require contacts with some governments to know what they think." Giving an example, he said: "The United States, for instance, says that it would not recognize a provisional government that included PLO supporters. As the United States says that talking to the PLO would be a problem for it, the problem would be bigger if a provisional government were formed. The United States would have a bigger problem regarding the question of whom it should talk to to promote a settlement of the Palestinian question." He stressed, however, that Palestinian action required more effective organization of matters ranging from such basic fields as education, health, and other services to important political decisions; "therefore a government is necessary to control these matters."

On whether or not he would attend the Palestine National Council [PNC] session likely to be held soon, al-Husayni, who is the director of the Arab Studies Institute in occupied Jerusalem, said: "Usually the occupation authorities prevent us from participating, but if the council is going to adopt historic resolutions, then I will participate whatever the circumstances and the sacrifices." [passage omitted]

Asked about Palestinian-Kuwaiti relations, he said: "I find this question strange because for decades these relations suffered no harm. Even the reported actions and incidents against Palestinians in Kuwait are mere rumors and have been exaggerated to drive a wedge between the two peoples, but that is not the end of the world. We are very hopeful that the Kuwaiti leadership will treat our brothers in Kuwait with the customary generosity and courtesy. Kuwait has played a major part in supporting our people. We will never forget that, whatever happens. The statements issued by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Jabir al-Sabah, the heir apparent, have been very reassuring about our people in Kuwait. We cleave to that trust and hope." [passage omitted]

On U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's current Middle East mission and his talks with the Palestinian delegation which he headed, al-Husayni said: "The meeting with Baker was the second in one month. We had expected that he would have something new in his bag but we discovered that the U.S. position had not yet crystallized. Baker addressed a number of questions to us and asked us to answer them. He asked about our position on the question of a regional conference attended by Egypt, Israel, Syria, Jordan, the Palestinians, and perhaps Saudi Arabia and Lebanon, and whether non-PLO Palestinians would participate in it. He submitted a plan to us regarding negotiations with Israel on what he called 'a self-governing entity'—an expression meaning 'more than autonomy but less than a state.' He also asked us about our position on Yasir 'Arafat." Al-Husayni added: Baker told the Palestinian delegation that he did not want immediate answers but we said: "We, for our part, have decided not to answer you because, if we did, we would say that no Palestinian would go to any negotiations without the PLO."

Al-Husayni added: "We also told him: We do not say that we agree to the proposed regional conference but, if such a conference is held, do not invite heads of state lest you face the problem of 'Arafat's attendance that you have been talking about."

Baker, al-Husayni said, asked us about the nature of the Palestinian delegation to such a regional conference, the role of the PLO, and the relation between that and the dual proposal (of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and Arab-Israeli negotiations). [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni emphasized: "Up to this moment we have neither rejected nor accepted the idea of a regional conference. We will study it. The idea has now been proposed to other Arab states. We will continue to support the idea of an international conference because that is the approporiate framework for a meeting of the parties to the conflict and it would ensure the presence of the two superpowers, namely the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as the major European states. We insist on the presence of the European states because the European position on the Palestinian question is more balanced than that of the others. We will insist on a European role." Despite all that, he added, we have not closed the door to a regional conference, if such a conference could produce more effective solutions to our problem.

Concluding his interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT, al-Husayni said: "The road to a solution is long, longer than we expected."

Radio Comments on Middle East Peace Diplomacy

LD1604165191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Immediately following the end of the Gulf war, the Middle East region began to witness intensive diplomatic activity aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the Palestine question in particular and the Arab-Israeli

conflict in general. This activity has manifested itself in the numerous tours, visits, and meetings now involving the Middle East.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker embarked on a tour of the region only hours after the speech delivered by U.S. President George Bush in which he announced that the time has come to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 388, i.e. based on the principle of land for peace and the guaranteeing of the legitimate political rights of the Palestine people. He added that the question of the geographic borders and the possession of huge arsenals will not bring peace and security.

The foreign ministers of Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Italy have also made a move in the region aimed at finding a realistic means of starting the peace process. They based their move on the need for dealing with the international legitimacy as an indivisible whole.

Joe Clark, Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, has also made moves in the capitals of the region's countries, and spoken of the need to seize the opportunity now available for the establishment of peace in the region.

Prior to these delegations, UN deputy secretary general Jean-Claude Aime also visited the region to acquaint himself with conditions there.

Other delegations are likely to arrive in the region during the coming days and weeks. President Bush is also expected to visit most of the capitals visited by his secretary of state during his previous tour.

These tours and visits constitute nothing new to the region and its people who are looking forward to emerging from the syndrome of war and the labyrinths of tribulation into the galaxy of light, stability, and peace.

The visits and the issuing of statements will not by themselves bring the parties to the conflict to the negotiating table. This is a fact proven by the history of the region.

The United States, the European and Arab countries, and the PLO are all agreed on the need to adopt the United Nations Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, i.e. the principle of land for peace, as a basis for settlement. But all that will remain mere ink on paper unless all the parties including Israel agree on a practical formula that would enable implementation of these principles.

The region's peoples have suffered much and for long. The time has come for peace and justice to reign over this part of the world in a manner that guarantees the rights of all the region's peoples, including the human and national rights of the Palestine people.

Palestinian Official on PLO Part in Peace Talks

NC1404121091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1124 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] London, 14 Apr (MENA)—Palestine's Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has affirmed that the PLO will be represented at the peace talks, whether by its members or by Palestinians inside the occupied territories.

He noted that it is no longer possible to differentiate between the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories. He pointed out that the United States and Israel have realized at last that the intifadah is part of a collective Palestinian action to regain rights and freedom.

In a statement today to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Kamal said the PLO has accepted the U.S. President's five points and that it is waiting for the United States and Israel to accept them.

'Arafat, French Envoy Discuss Palestinian Issue

LD1204161691 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat met yesterday in Tunis with the head of the Middle East affairs department of the French Foreign Ministry, Patrick Leclerc. They discussed developments in the current Middle East situation and the Palestinian issue in light of current diplomatic contacts and moves. The meeting also dealt with the ideas and the views of the Palestinian and French sides regarding the ways and means to reach peace and find a just solution for the Palestinian issue. They examined the situation of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories and its resistance in the face of Israeli repression and terrorism, in addition to the situation in the Gulf and Lebanon.

Algeria

Commentary Views Islamic Front Call for Jihad

LD1604124191 Algiers APS in English 1033 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Algiers, Apr 16 (APS)—The frolics of the spokesman of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Abassi Madani, can leave no one indifferent. Mainly that they inspire the greatest concerns for civil peace and the unity of the Algerian people. It was believed that the first official of the FIS was rather concerned by seeing the legislative elections take place in the time decided by [words indistinct] with the other 40 existing political parties, the setting up of the electoral campaign.

But nothing from that happened. Abassi Madani has perked up and one could believe that we are once again in the time of the 1988 crisis. The spokesman of the FIS has made abstraction of all the democratic gains of these last two years, mainly the Constitution of February 23, 1989 which enables everyone to test his audience within the civilian society. Here he is once again suddenly brandishing the weapon of "jihad" as if the majority of Algerians who have chosen democratic currents were not Moslems. As the "jihad" would oppose the fundamentalists in the FIS to all those who are certainly more numerous and who see no salvation other than the finalization of the democratization process inaugurated by the Constitution of 1989.

Here is Abassi Madani riding the horse of "civil disobedience" renouncing at the same time to all the legal ways of consultation and dialogue, threatening the president of the republic, custodian of the institutions, to endanger the country if he does not accept to deny the progress accomplished in a short time in the democratization of the national life. More than that, he is threatening the National People's Army of "fighting until the destruction" if it tried to defend the normal carrying out of the democratic process in conformity with stipulations of the Constitution.

In fact, this absconding of all extremists who are agitating the political field shows their disarray. These people who have suddenly been placed before their sole judges (the citizens who will vote on June 27), are losing the certainties they have acquired in demagogical manipulations and are no longer sure to use the opinion as they wish. Nothing is more true for the FIS whose experience in the field of management has shown its uncapability to recognize the true problems of the citizens and find for them appropriate solutions.

At the opposite, either in its discourse or in practice, the FIS has found itself in total contradiction with the aspirations of the majority of citizens. The best proof was produced on the occasion of the general strike of protest of the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA). The strike which was opposed by the FIS was largely followed and has led to a new agreement between the government and the UGTA. Does the fact that millions of workers will improve incomes by the increase of family and school allowances really disturb the FIS to the point that its spokesman declared recently in Tlemcem (west of Algeria) that by answering the claims of the workers the government wants to prevent the realization of the Islamic republic. As if the interests of the workers and those of the Islamic state were opposed. This can be true as the Islamic trade union did not express solidarity with the strike called for by the UGTA.

Then if it is not the solution to problems of the citizens, what is the FIS looking for?

Arab Islamic Rally Urges 'Solidarity' in Election

LD1604083591 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The Arab Islamic Rally [AIR] will take part in the coming elections. But how and with whom? This question was put forward by Ammar Boudarbah to Dr. Ali (Zaghdoud), the leader of this party who replied:

[(Zaghdoud)] We call on all the militants and supporters of the AIR to take part on the basis of fraternity, solidarity, and cooperation; and provide calm and secure conditions to frustrate the opportunity of the enemies of the Algerian people, who will be fishing in troubled waters.

We are confident in the experience of the Muslim Arab Algerian people. We, therefore, call all parties which have an Arab and Islamic orientation, and in particular the Arab Islamic Rally, to participate in these elections. Those with whom we will be allied are the Arab Islamic trend because we reject being allied with the seculars. We will not ally ourselves with them; they, in our view, brought the country to this position.

For this reason we will ally ourselves with only the parties which have an Arab Islamic orientation and we call on these parties to be at the post and to shoulder their responsibility at this stage, through which the role of the Algerian people will emerge as a people capable of shouldering their responsibility as they have always shown.

Three Wounded in Mosque Shooting Incident

LD1704000491 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] On 'Id day, during which amity, love, brotherhood, and forgiveness should prevail, serious things took place. During the afternoon prayers, two armed people, one with a gun of the 753 type [as heard] and the other with a dagger and a stick, entered the mosque of a school in al-Hennaya in the Tlemcen Province in order to prevent the worshippers from carrying out their religious duty before the imam of the mosque. This caused dissension in the ranks of the preachers, which resulted in the wounding of three people by gunfire. The

intruders, in their early thirties, chose prayer time to infiltrate to the mihrab [mosque recess indicating direction of prayer] and call upon the preachers to evacuate the mosque. They refused to obey and tried to calm things down, but the person with the gun continued trespassing and started firing, according to one of the wounded at Tlemcen hospital.

According to sources close to the police, this case is related to another which took place in the same town at the end of the first week of Ramadan. Those two intruders were arrested by the police, and it was revealed that one of them has a police record. An inquiry has been opened to look into the reasons behind this incident.

French Foreign Minister Postpones Visit

LD1604224891 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has postponed his 21 April visit to Algeria and Tunisia. His visits to Egypt and Libya will still take place. A spokesman for the Quai d'Orsay [Foreign Ministry] stated that the principle of the visit was established and that the postponement was only a scheduling matter.

Egypt

Mubarak, Fahd Discuss Regional Issues by Phone

NC1604195191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, exchanged 'Id al-Fitr greetings during a telephone conversation this afternoon.

During the long conversation, the two leaders exchanged views on the present regional situation.

Cairo News Media View Middle East Peace Issues

Israeli Settlement Policy Decried

NC1704092891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH have denounced Israel's insistence on building settlements in the occupied Arab territories when the United States is intensifying its efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and reach a lasting settlement that will achieve security and peace in the Middle East.

AL-AHRAM notes Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent statement that his government will continue to build settlements in the occupied territories. It says Shamir's statement, coming after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker paid two visits to Israel in rapid succession, raises a complicated question: What hope can there be that anything will be achieved as long as this remains Israel's unchanging refrain, and what use is there in shuttling between here and there if Israel rejects the substance of what is being offered; namely, exchanging land for peace?

The paper stresses in its editorial that this Israeli stand seeks to impede Baker's mission and to frustrate the U.S. Administration's efforts. It adds: Shamir's statements are infuriating. The United States should be the one most infuriated, because its stated enthusiasm for finding an internationally supported way out of the Arab-Israeli conflict is apparently receiving only "the cold shoulder" from Israel, which is not content with ignoring the U.S. secretary of state, but is also intentionally impeding his mission.

Under the headline "Baker's Tour and Land in Return for Peace," AL-JUMHURIYAH denounces the Israeli position and the Yitzhaq Shamir government's insistence on pursuing the settlement plans in the occupied territories in an attempt to change the demographic nature of the Palestinian territories.

The paper says that Israel is determined to propose nothing that exceeds the bounds of administrative autonomy, while continuing its policy of repression, dispersal, and deportation against Palestinian citizens.

The paper welcomes President George Bush's decision to send Secretary of State James Baker to the Middle East for the third time since the end of the Gulf war, but asks: Can Baker secure Israel's acceptance of the confidence-building measures that are needed to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and its commitment to the principle of land in exchange for peace?

Israel Trying 'To Stall'

NC1604102591 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Television Network Channel II in English 1815 GMT 15 Apr 91

["Spotlight on the News" feature by Salim Rizqallah]

[Excerpts] When we said that it would be a great blunder to assume that the liberation of Kuwait was the end of all problems in this region, our perspective was guided by both insight and experience. Rather all indications suggested that grim developments lay ahead and that unless concerted world efforts were exerted and deployed with dedication, the so-called Gulf crisis which broke out on August 2 would prove marginal compared to the horrors and turmoil that could plague the area elsewhere as part of the aftermath of the war. [passage omitted]

When the guns that liberated Kuwait were silenced at the end of February, everyone gave a deep sigh of relief. It was not the enforcement of the Security Council resolutions in Kuwait alone that made all hearts swell, but also confident belief in those earlier promises that the Security Council resolutions on the Middle East would be equally implemented without delay. It is true we heard encouraging words from here and there, with President

Bush not only proclaiming his full support, but reiterating his clear and unequivocal commitment to Resolutions 242 and 338, stressing the principle of exchanging land for peace. Meanwhile, Secretary of State James Baker has been shuttling between Washington and Middle East capitals in a bid to reactivate the peace process and fulfill the binding promises of a settlement long overdue, now that the task of liberating Kuwait is over.

But Israel has many tricks up her sleeve to stall peace endeavors. First we hear of so-called new ideas which the Israeli Government rejects. Then we hear of Prime Minister Shamir coming up with ideas of his own which are definitely unacceptable, as if the Middle East problem has just emerged as a total surprise to all and needs time and more time, ideas and more ideas for mere analysis and initial assessment for all to find out what it is all about in the first place. The tragedy that has brought so much misery to this area has claimed such a heavy toll of human lives and has been thoroughly studied and debated at international forums for decades with a pile of United Nations resolutions demanding the restoration of Arab land and denouncing Israel's atrocities against the Palestinians in unmistakable terms. Today we find ourselves faced with those exasperating attempts to push matters back to square one with so-called new ideas and more ideas forwarded to Israel and coming out of Israel. [passage omitted]

As relief operations are urgently pursued to alleviate the plight of the Iraqis, the Israeli Government clamps a rigid curfew on Palestinian towns and cities for weeks, keeping them in dire need of food for survival. As Israel speaks of so-called new ideas, Palestinians are being deported in arrogant defiance of world denunciation and protests. As Israel speaks of a peaceful solution, more and more Soviet Jews are being flown in and settled in the occupied territories. Even the Jews of Albania have been smuggled out of the country and brought to Israel, without a word about the owners of the Arab lands who had to move out to make room for newcomers. [passage omitted]

The world was set on an international conference. Today we hear of a so-called regional conference. We hear of a deliberate attempt to combat the presence of all five permanent members of the Security Council at a Middle East conference—a concept that is both odd and suspicious, particularly when we find that in the Gulf crisis the world insisted on all five permanent members of the Security Council acting in full coordination to end the Gulf crisis. Again in the formation of the United Nations peacekeeping force to be stationed on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, it was decided that the presence of the five permanent member states be there. In other words, one of the guarantees of success is a combined role by the permanent members.

Now, should the combat of that principle in the Middle East problem be construed as a deliberate attempt to have peace endeavors or talks or whatever drag on forever with no chance of a settlement? Why is it that when it comes to the Arab-Israeli affair the concept changes, the principles are never the same, the rules are different, and there is no logic?

Now without new ideas, old ideas, more ideas, or whatever, the question is as simple as that. There are Security Council resolutions that have to be implemented. There are provisions of international law that have to be enforced and, even more important, there is a world credibility that has to be maintained to avert further bitterness, frustration, and above all, more fundamentalism and terrorism.

Arab-Israeli Peace Analyzed

NC1604155091 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Apr 91 p 7

[Article by Mursi 'Atallah: "Calculations of the Coming Peace"]

[Text] Are we on the threshhold of a real endeavor to search for peace, or is it just a new link in the chain of lost opportunities we have seen year after year and decade after decade since 1948?

This is the pressing question posed today in light of the current shuttling by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Now that the international community has succeeded in imposing its will on the Iraqi aggressor, the door has beeen opened to apply the same criteria to the Israeli aggressor, which continues to defy the will of the international community by refusing to abide by all calls for peace and by attempting to undermine and eliminate the Palestinian issue.

We are very much mistaken if we think we can postpone or ignore raising this question. The region, which is currently seeing the effects of the post-Kuwait liberation era, is in a state of semi-shock in which it is almost unable to understand and explain anything. There is nothing more serious than this.

I say with absolute clarity that the Middle East region (regimes and peoples) needs someone to help it answer this question, because the answer will determine where we are headed.

It is no exaggeration to say that we are now like a pedestrian faced with a sudden change of traffic lights who needs someone to take his hand and help him to the other side.

The catastrophe of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent shocks have upset the concepts and balances terribly. I am very afraid this confusion will go beyond temporary shock and settle firmly in our lives, strengthening the sense of dispair, disappointment, and impotency.

Every issue must be discussed in relation to its circumstances, without disregarding the importance of the

psychological and moral aspects and the comprehensive power that bolsters the negotiating position of a party in any settlement.

To return to the question with which I began this article, I say that each of the two possibilities I proposed is likely to occur. Which one it will be will eventually depend on our ability to exploit the outcome of the Kuwaiti liberation war in our interest and that of international legitimacy, or on Israel's ability to equivocate and convince the international community, particularly the United States—on the grounds that it is currently playing the leading role in the new international order—that holding peace negotiations and seeking peaceful settlements is not urgent.

Are we, for example, capable of holding on to the positive aspects of the U.S. stance before the Israelis seek, using their well-known methods, to nullify those aspects of any real significance? If we can do that, we will have taken the first step in a real quest for peace.

U.S. President Bush has spoken of the land for peace principle. This is something that Israel is doing its utmost to portray as merely a slip of the tongue that does not express the United States' true position.

The reports that came out of Israel during Baker's talks with Shamir, Levi, and Arens prove that the U.S. secretary of state rejected all methods of equivocation and asked the Israeli officials to give him specific answers about their views on the prerequisites for peace, the foundations on which a settlement of the Palestinian issue should be based, how far withdrawal should go, and mutual commitments.

All of this is encouraging. But it will remain in dreamland unless buttressed by an enlightened and intensive Arab effort that, before anything else, knows the keys to the U.S. position.

The efforts that we Arabs make regarding Washington at this time—before the world's enthusiasm for consolidating international legitimacy wanes—will turn Baker's current tour and the expected Bush visit into a proper prelude to a true search for peace.

Here important and necessary questions arise: What form must this Arab effort in Washington's direction take, how far should it go, and who are the parties qualified to perform the major role in this effort?

Arab efforts with Washington must use all the tools of influence available, foremost of which is the U.S. feeling that it can, for the first time in a long while, build a bridge to converge U.S. and Arab interests and strategies, particularly after the Soviet role in the region has receded and the level of the Arabs' relations with the socialist bloc countries has abated in light of the profound changes of the past two years.

I also believe the Arab effort with Washington should realize the importance of not adhering to the rigid forms and concepts of the means and ways of building peace. This means that if the United States objects to the notion of holding an international peace conference because it has no desire to anger Israel and shows an enthusiasm for an alternative notion called the regional peace conference, then there is nothing to prevent studying this notion carefully as long as it does not harm the fundamental legitimate rights—which must not be relinquished—and as long as the United States and the Soviet Union act to guarantee any forthcoming agreement by participating in this conference with the directly concerned parties.

I do not believe that identifying those parties qualified to play the main role in this effort with Washington will take long. The Kuwait liberation war has created an Arab grouping comprised of Egypt, Syria, and the Gulf states. This grouping now has widely accepted credibility both with the United States and the majority of Arab public opinion.

I also do not think it possible to ignore the Palestinian party, which is qualified to enter into the dialogue and is accepted by the world and the Arabs. It is inevitable that this party should come from within the PLO, even if not from the organization's symbols whose credibility has been greatly shaken by the Kuwait liberation war.

Let us be confident that peace will be the last port of call in the Middle Eastern voyage of military and political struggle, no matter how long we have to wait for it.

This is what history says. Thus, we must base our calculations on peace and nothing else.

President Mubarak Comments on IMF Agreement

NC1604120591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1107 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Suez, 16 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that the initial agreement between Egypt and the IMF is the first of its kind. The agreement addresses numerous sociopolitical issues and the need for gradual measures to deal with all social problems.

President Mubarak pointed out that the negotiations were difficult, but much care was taken to reach an agreement with the IMF whereby the Egyptian economy can fulfill its development requirements. He noted that the agreement also is linked with writing off part of Egypt's debts and rescheduling the rest to relieve the burden of debt interests and repayment installments.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said President Mubarak made this statement during a meeting with People's Assembly and Consultative Council members after performing 'Id al-Fitr prayers at the 3d Field Army's mosque in Suez. [passage omitted]

Libya

Commentary on New Jewish Settlement in West Bank

LD1604125691 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The Zionist enemy continues to implement his criminal scheme in occupied Palestine. The radio of the Zionists reported today that the barbaric, savage Zionist gangs have begun construction of a new settlement in the northern part of the West Bank. It quoted one of the gangsters as saying that the utilities in the settlement, which is being built at maximum speed this week, were about to be completed. The Zionist gangs are expected to begin settling in the new settlement, either today or tomorrow, several of the Jewish immigrants who are pouring into occupied Palestine, prior to the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in occupied Palestine.

This new plot falls within the framework of the Zionist criminal plan which is directed against the very extreme of the Arab nation and the usurpation of its lands for the creation of their alleged empire. [passage omitted]

The enemy's persistence in the violation of the sanctity of the Arab lands and its provocation of the feelings of the Arab nation affirm that the Arab-Israeli conflict is a conflict of existence and not a conflict of borders, and that the quest for a peaceful solution between the Arabs and the Zionists is nothing more than running after a mirage. Consequently, we call upon the Arabs to rush to rally the shattered Arab ranks, heal the wounds of the Arab nation and dress its wounds, build comprehensive Arab unity, and remove the imaginary borders and the possession of the means of power so that the Arab nation can assert itself, liberate its occupied territory, and guarantee its existence.

The world too must realize that the solution of the Palestine question cannot be at the expense of the Arab people and their lands and that the solution of the Jewish problem cannot be achieved except in line with what revolutionary leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the universal revolution, stated before the ninth summit conference of the Nonaligned Movement, which convened in Belgrade in September 1989, when he said that the Jews must leave Palestine. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Further on Taya's Election Promise, Referendum

LD1704020691 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The national leadership is determined to make all Mauritanian people take part in public matters and issues related to the running of its affairs to improve a free and developed country. This was reiterated by Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN [Military Committee for National Salvation] and president of the Republic, on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr in a historic speech to the citizens. His Excellency, the president, talked about the democratic steps which are to be implemented.

[Begin Ould Taya recording] The economic and social council will, God willing, be appointed in the coming days. In this context, and to meet the desires of many of the sons of our people, a general referendum will be held in order to ratify a constitution. These measures will be carried out before the end of the current year, God willing. Then, once the constitution is approved, free elections will be held to appoint a chamber of deputies and a senate, among other measures, and in the light of the formation of political parties whose number will not be limited. [end recording]

Union Calls for National Conference, Democracy

AB1604131691 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0730 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] In Mauritania, the Mauritania Workers Union, UTM, the sole confederation of workers unions, demands the holding of a national conference and calls for democracy and multipartyism. Furthermore, the union will continue pressing its grievances until it is satisfied. This was made known yesterday by UTM General Secretary Mohamed Mahdou Ould Mohamed Radi, while receiving foreign journalists. Mr. Radi, on behalf of the UTM, had signed and addressed a letter in this regard to Mauritanian leader Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya on 4 April, stating that these grievances will not change as long as the UTM exists.

We do not want to end up with the situation experienced by Mali, where a general strike by the sole confederation of workers unions resulted in the overthrow of Malian leader Moussa Traore on 26 March. We want openness, dialogue, and a national conference, added the leader of the UTM, which includes some 45,000 members in a country of less than 2 million inhabitants. The social situation is as disastrous as the economic situation, and this needs a rapid solution, the union leader stated.

Opposition Group Expresses Support for Democracy

AB1604185591 Paris AFP in French 1107 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Dakar, 14 Apr (AFP)—FLAM (the opposition African Liberation Forces of Mauritania), has stated in a communique to the press that it supports the campaign for the restoration of democracy and a multiparty system in Mauritania.

FLAM stated that democratization in Mauritania must be preceded by the restoration of a climate of detente and that this can only be achieved through the resignation of President Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, the formation of a transitional government, holding of a

national conference that should define the framework for coexistence between black-African and Moorish communities, the return of deported Mauritanians, general amnesty for all prisoners and political exiles, and the establishment of a commission of inquiry to throw some light on the crimes committed by the Mauritanian Government from 1986 to 1991.

FLAM restated its preparedness for dialogue, consultation, and commitment for the building of an African and Arab Mauritanian nation. Finally it expressed its desire for collaboration with all opposition groups fighting against the current Mauritanian regime.

Morocco

UN To Assist Nation in Human Rights

LD1504124991 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Rabat, Apr. 15 (MAP)—The UN bureau in charge of human rights pledged assistance to the Moroccan Consultative Council [for Human Rights] and voiced willingness for the creation in Morocco of a regional center for training and archives on human rights matters. The proposal was announced by secretary general of the Council Mohamed Mikou at a recent meeting here that discussed the programme on the implementation of the royal directions concerning the proposals of the Consultative Council for Human Rights which gathered several cabinet members. The choice was made thanks to Morocco's vanguard role in the field and holds the presidency of the commission in charge of convening an international conference on human rights.

Mohamed Mikou made a detailed expose on the programme which includes measures to be accomplished jointly or individually by different departments either through the adoption of legislative or regulation texts or through the issuing of notes on the matter. He also said members of the council partook last March in the 47th session of the UN Commission for Human Rights and had talks with executive of the commission as well as those of some organizations accredited to the UN on the three memoranda concerning the situation in Moroccan prisons, under custody [words indistinct].

The meeting stressed the need to set up a follow up quadripartite commission to include the foreign, interior and information, justice departments and the council's secretary general.

King Grants 'Id al-Fitr Pardon to Prisoners

LD1604133491 Rabat MAP in English 1206 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Rabat, Apr. 16 (MAP)—King Hassan II of Morocco granted on the occasion of the 'Id al-Fitr, ending the holy fasting month of Ramadan, free pardon to a number of prisoners, a communique of the Justice Department has said.

The move ranges from reduction of the imprisonment term for 221 prisoners to total free pardon for 334 prisoners, with some of them having to pay the fines they were sanctioned to.

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince Delivers 'Id al-Fitr Address

LD1604085491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 15 Apr (SPA)—On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, made an exhaustive and comprehensive address, the text of which follows:

Praise be to Almighty God, and prayers and peace be upon the most honorable of missionaries, our master and Prophet Muhammad, upon all his family and companions.

Honorable citizens, my brothers and sons, men of the valiant Armed Forces, peace and blessings of God be upon you.

It pleases me on this graceful occasion to congratulate you on completing the fasting of the month of Ramadan, and on observing it, praying to Almighty God to ensure returns of it on all the Islamic peoples with good and blessings, and on the Arab and Islamic nation when its wounds have been healed and when it has resumed its march on the road to solidarity and brotherhood, at a time when one will be able to choose and act; and to link between action and objective, a matter that will preserve for the Arab world its cohesiveness and protect it from division and fragmentation.

Brothers and sons, the events that have occurred have caused confusion for many Arab and Islamic peoples and disturbed balances and positions. These events were moving toward us and were a threat to us.

As for us, those loyal to values, authenticity, and human values, they have their hands in ours, while the others have shouted until their throats were hoarse; their dreams and illusions were wasted, and they have swallowed them in bitterness, anger, and regret, while the people of Saudi Arabia and its Armed Forces have become the subject of admiration and respect by the world. [passage omitted]

We must have moral courage to face the facts. The first of these fcts is that a new historic phase is looming over us, and to disregard the spirit of this phase would be to disregard international will. For this reason measures were taken by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, regarding the invasion of Kuwait. It was a response, a necessity, and the correction of a line. [sentence as heard] They were taken in harmony with the international logic that obliges us to let force explain right, and let right use force to attain its objectives and realize its aims. [passage omitted]

Dear Arab brothers: Since the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded, the founder, King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, God bless his remains, did not polarize its policy. Harmony between Arab countries and cooperation between Islamic countries were the two fundamental principles of the late king's policy.

Our Arab world, including all its states and regions, is interlinked politically, economically, socially, and culturally. There is no state that stands outside the circle of interaction with and influence by the other Arab states. The problems of the Arab world are interrelated and interlinked and they can only be solved through cooperation among all Arab states.

Therefore, it is time now for the Arabs to develop an Arab project by which the Arab peoples would rise above leadership competition; overcome partition, imbalance, and backwardness; and put an end to dismemberment and division, leaving no room for the opportunists and the adventurers to tamper with the fate of the Arab nation; and to maintain the Islamic dimension for the Arab world and the Arab dimension for the Islamic world.

Dear Arab brothers: There is no argument that the Palestinian issue is the central issue of the Arab and Islamic worlds. Unless this issue is solved whereby the Palestinian brothers can practice their right to self-determination, their right to return to their country, and their right to establish an independent state on their national soil. Unless Israel evacuates all of the occupied territories and return them to their legitimate owners, the Arab and the Islamic worlds will never know stability—internally and externally.

Honorable Arab brothers: I am convinced that our present will not be the grave to our past. History is full of black periods where heroes confronted raging currents of violence and evil.

Here, Islam is returning, after fierce battles, to the front to make history. Men perish but their deeds remain. We are only seeking to follow the light of our faith, to march without fear or arrogance, seeking the honor of struggle and steadfastness.

Peace and God's blessings be upon you.

Crown Prince Greeted by Kuwaiti Prime Minister

LD1604203591 Riyadh SPA in English 1919 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Riyadh, April 16, SPA—Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, received today a telephone call from Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah.

Shaykh Sa'ad congratulated Prince 'Abdallah on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr.

They also exchanged views on the issues of the region and events in the Islamic, Arab and international arena.

Foreign Minister Opposes U.S. Plans for Kurds

JN1704100891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1003 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—Iraq has denounced the White House's announcement that American forces will enter northern Iraq from time to time during relief operations for Kurdish refugees. Iraq has also denounced President Bush's statement that American, British, and French military ground and air forces will build camps to receive the Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn said in a statement to INA that this action is a continuation of the interference in Iraq's internal affairs and that from a practical point of view it is unnecessary.

He added that this would hamper efforts to reach solutions to the issue, especially since Iraq is now cooperating with Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, the UN secretary general's envoy, to secure all necessary means to deal with the matter.

The foreign minister pointed out that an agreement in principle was reached today with Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan on the issue.

INA has learned that the aforementioned agreement will be announced at a later time today.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives UN's Sadruddin Agha Khan

JN1704105691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz this morning received Prince Sadruddine Aga Khan, the UN executive commissioner for aid and relief, and his delegation.

Trade Minister Receives UN Envoy Suy

JN1704093891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0922 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih last night met with Eric Suy, the UN secretary general's personal envoy.

The minister briefed the UN envoy on the state's efforts to confront the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq and to secure foodstuffs for the citizenry. In this regard, the minister pointed to the damage inflicted on Iraq's economic infrastructure as a result of the American-Atlantic aggression and the crimes perpetrated by the criminal mobs who came from across the borders.

Jordan Asked To Seek Turkish Troop Withdrawal

PM1704090591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Iraq Seeks Jordan's Mediation To Get Turkey To Withdraw Its Forces"]

[Excerpt] Amman, Washington, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Iraq has asked Jordan to use its friendly relations with Turkey to get it to withdraw Turkish troops from an area in northern Iraq which Turkish troops reportedly entered on a humanitarian mission to help Iraqi Kurds, according to a statement by the Turkish foreign minister.

It has been learned that Tariq 'Aziz's visit to Amman last night was within the framework of that task.

The visit is Mr. 'Aziz's second visit to Jordan in the past few days and since he was relieved of the post of foreign minister and appointed deputy to Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi. [passage omitted]

INA Denies Cairo Report of Scud Deployment

JN1704104391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1031 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—INA's international affairs editor today dismissed a report carried by Cairo radio and attributed to the German news agency claiming that Iraq had started deploying Scud missiles in six bases inside the country, thus posing a threat to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Israel.

The report is a falsehood and has no basis in truth. It is part of a disinformation drive mounted by the Atlantist-Zionist propaganda machine with the object of inciting against Iraq, the editor said.

American, French Journalists Released in Baghdad

JN1604191891 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Two Western journalists, a Frenchman working for the French Gamma agency and an American working for CBS, were released in Baghdad last night. They were held 18 days ago in the city of Karkuk, a few hours after Iraqi forces purged the city of rebels. The journalists, who were moved to Baghdad, said they received good treatment during their detention.

Officials Sworn In Before Saddam Husayn

JN1604170691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Arshad al-Zibari was sworn in before President Saddam Husayn this morning on the assumption of his post as minister of state.

Hatim Hamdan was also sworn in before President Saddam Husayn this morning on the assumption of his post as secretary of the chief of the Presidential Office.

Khalil Yasin al-Ma'muri was sworn in before President Saddam Husayn this morning on the assumption of his post as secretary of the chief of the Presidential Office.

On this occasion, they extended congratulations to leader President Saddam Husayn on the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, praying for happy and blessed returns for his excellency.

During the reception and congratulations ceremonies, the leader president stressed his high confidence in the masses of our heroic people and the Armed Forces and their ability to surmount the current difficulties and to reconstruct what was destroyed by the aggression and the saboteurs, who are enemies of the people and the homeland. His excellency said: We thank God that Iraq remained free, unified, and strong and that immortal deeds have been achieved in our victorious march.

Minister: 'Conspiracy' Targeted Citizens' Health

JN1604102891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA)—Health Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has stressed that the U.S.-led conspiracy against Iraq, part of which was implemented by the agent saboteurs, targets the health of Iraqi citizens and seeks to spread disease and epidemics among them.

In statements published here today by AL-JUMHURIYAH, he said: Our proof of this is that the United States has imposed a food and medicine blockade on Iraq, its Air Force bombed water purification stations, and it has also instructed its agent saboteurs to destroy the remaining stations, medicine, food, and sophisticated medical equipment, and to destroy hospitals.

The minister added that his ministry earlier instructed its hospitals to dig water wells in anticipation of losing drinking water, but the saboteurs premeditatedly poured gas oil in these wells to prevent their use.

The health minister noted that the ministry plans to send a representative to Geneva to negotiate and coordinate with the International Committee of the Red Cross to secure the release of the medicine Iraq has already purchased and signed contracts for with international companies. He said that among these contracts is one for the Japanese-made BCG [tuberculosis] vaccine.

He said that the medicine donated by humanitarian organizations to assist Iraq do not cover the actual yearly needs, and that international health organizations should attempt to increase this aid to fill the deficit in medicine and medical equipment.

'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id denied that cholera has spread in Iraq. He said there have been cases of diarrhea due to the consumption of contaminated water. He explained that there are 26 diseases causing diarrhea, and that only one of these causes cholera.

Paper Views Acceptance of Cease-Fire Resolution

JN1504104591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that Iraq will not halt the march of life and renaissance, because it possesses immense resources and creative potential and does not dwell on its most difficult circumstances and ordeals.

In an article entitled "Iraq Is Replete With Resources" published today, the paper adds: All of Iraq's enemies without exception are well aware that Iraq is a country different from other states of the world. It is a country that has all the components of life, progress, and development. Iraq is rich in agricultural capabilities and natural resources, and has immense mineral wealth. First and foremost, Iraq is the country of an age-old civilization. Its people have an insatiable desire for construction and they cherish noble values such as courage, chivalry, generosity, patience, good performance, and sacrifice.

The paper adds that the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic alliance of aggression launched the most unrelenting, evil, and ferocious aggression against Iraq and its people. The paper says: This evil alliance was neither content with its direct military operations, which undermined the components of Iraqi life as well as basic facilities and services in various parts of Iraq, nor with the ill-intentioned measures of economic blockade contravening all international norms and charters. In fact, this alliance, with its U.S. command, has begun to spout its venom, creating new pages enshrining the so-called draft cease-fire resolution, which was debated at a time when the acts of sabotage and conspiracy perpetrated by the foreigner's agents were in full swing in most Iraqi cities and villages.

The paper adds: Despite the emergency situation that forced Iraq to accept this international resolution with its elements of conspiracy and hatred in form and substance, Iraq, as its foes know before its friends do, will not stop the march of construction and progress. Iraq today is entering a new stage in its life that requires the immense and sincere efforts of a people for whom history recorded white pages of activity and vitality, especially since Iraq has come out of the most serious imperialist and Zionist conspiracy while safeguarding the unity of its soil, people, and will. Iraq has thwarted the largest part of the conspiracy to destroy it. It also has thwarted the conspiracy to divide and fragment it and dismember the unity of its great people.

The paper explains that Iraq's accomplishments call for pride and reflect the concern over Iraq, the cohesion of Iraq's sons and their determination to overcome all obstacles and difficulties to proceed toward the future. All of Iraq's material losses can be restored through patience, determination, and hard work.

The paper points out that Iraq's forced acceptance of Resolution 687 does not lack positive aspects. The

biggest positive aspect of this acceptance is that it stopped the barbaric aggression along with its hateful and oppressive intentions to destroy, thwarted the conspiracy to divide Iraq, and set up the steps on the threshold of the new awakening which has actually begun and which will be firmly followed thanks to the determination of all noble Iraqis.

'Irresponsible and Empty Rhetoric' Gone Forever

JN1604184391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1622 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Excerpt] AL-THAWRAH published an editorial today under the headline "An Achievement That Merits Appreciation," containing the following:

What has been achieved so far in the Bayji refineries, the work accomplished so far in al-Dawrah refinery, and the achievements in other installations in services and production to rebuild what was destroyed and provide basic services to citizens; all these achievements and facts, which surpass all normal expectations and considerations, go hand in hand with a noble process that clearly indicates that the great Iraqi people are capable of achieving anything and overcoming all difficulties despite the ruin and the effects of the aggression, and despite the destruction and damage to the infrastructure of the country caused by the criminal agents.

The achievements to date not only make us feel calm and assured about the future, but they can be seen as a real source of pride for our people if we keep in mind the large-scale destruction wrought by the 30-nation alliance aggression on our country. In fact, these achievements constitute a progressive example of action, creativity, and speed. They are an example to be emulated in reconstructing all state institutions and installations for (?services and humanitarian) needs.

We all have the right, in fact it is our duty, to salute the efforts and achievements of all loyal employees who contributed toward these achievements and performed their national role to provide the elements of a dignified and good life for the citizens.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the Iraqi citizen receives the news of the resumption of operations at the Bayji refineries for producing gasoline, white oil, gas oil, liquid gas, and grease, starting yesterday, and other reports characterized by very precise information that are neither exaggerated nor vague, with redoubled happiness.

In the first place, he will feel happy as an Iraqi about these achievements because they are unexpected and sudden surprises. In the second place, he is happy because he can determine his living conditions and circumstances in accordance with the correct information given to him. He can be assured that the age of irresponsible and empty rhetoric has gone forever.

The American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression with all its capabilities and equipment was aimed not only at the destruction of the Iraqi infrastructure, nor at the destruction of the installations and services that are directly linked to the life of the majority of citizens. First and foremost, it was aimed at destroying the will of the Iraqi people and their spirit, which [word indistinct] in sacrifice, action, and progress, and spreading despair and frustration among their ranks. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

Israel 'Agreed' To Receive 2,000 Iraqi Kurds

JN1604172791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] INA has learned that Israel agreed to receive 2,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees residing in Pakistan. The UN refugees affairs bureau will be responsible for transporting them to Israel.

Hammadi Says Thousands of Kurds Have Returned

JN1604170091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1628 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA)—In a statement to INA, Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said that thousands of Kurdish citizens returned today from the border zones with Turkey and Iran to their cities, villages, and farms in the northern governorates.

He added that the number of those who returned today, Tuesday, 16 April 1991, has reached 16,410 citizens. Thus, the total number of those returning from the border zone this week—until today—has reached 87,884 citizens.

Large numbers are preparing to return after being reassured that safety and security prevail again in the northern governorates, despite deceptive propaganda, and after the local authorities provided the citizens with all facilities and care, including the necessary transportation.

Kurds Claim Capture of Brigade Headquarters

NC1604183391 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Kurdish opposition sources have affirmed that their forces defeated an Iraqi brigade and occupied its headquarters in the Iraqi Kurdistan region. The sources said their forces attacked Iraqi Army positions near al-Sulaymaniyah last night. After a short clash with the Iraqi Army, these forces managed to take control of the 38th Brigade Headquarters and its bases, where between 3,000 and 5,000 troops were stationed.

The statement said many Iraqi soldiers were killed or captured and that various weapons were taken from the brigade headquarters.

Revolutionaries Repulse Regime Attack in North

NC1504081891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0645 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The regime is still trying to regain control of our Kurdish revolutionaries' strongholds in the north. On Friday a force from the 10th Mechanized Division attacked our valiant revolutionaries in the areas of Salah al-Din and Shaqlawah. The force was compelled to retreat in the face of the revolutionaries' fire and resistance. The bodies of 18 of Saddam's gangsters—including a brigadier general and two lieutenants—were scattered on the battlefield.

As a result of the confrontation, the revolutionaries captured two working tanks, two mortars, three machine guns, and five RPG's [rocket-propelled grenades].

Attack Army Group, Kill Officers

NC1604203391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1931 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] In continuation of our revolutionaries' heroic operations against the Saddamist regime's personnel, a group of heroic revolutionaries in the area of 'Ali al-Gharbi cut off the main road between Baghdad and al-'Amarah and attacked a military column heading north to Baghdad. The revolutionaries targeted the military column's command, which consisted of a group of officers riding in a 1990 Toyota Land Cruiser. The revolutionaries shot at the command car, destroying it and killing all the officers. The rest of the enemy force was frightened and confused and fled from the area in a disorderly manner. The revolutionary group returned safely to base after accomplishing its task.

Continued Disturbances, Child Abductions Reported

LD1404115491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Disturbances continued in the southern cities of Iraq such as al-Basrah, al-Tannumah and al-'Amarah until 0300 this morning and the sound of some explosions were heard in the city of Khorramshahr.

According to IRNA, quoting Iraqi refugees, the Iraqi regime's opponents in those regions, launched an attack against Republican Guards units. A number of the Republican Guards were killed and four tanks were destroyed. According to the Iraqi refugees, in a new measure created to spread fear and panic among the people and to dissuade them from continuing their support for the opponents, the Iraqi Ba'thist forces have embarked on abducting children, and in the past few days some children have disappeared in al-Basrah and its surrounding cities.

Foreign Minister Meets UN Refugees Commissioner

JN1604172891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn met with Prince Sadruldin Agha Khan, UN commissioner for refugees, this evening. They discussed ways to coordinate and activate assistance and relief programs provided to Iraq by international agencies and organizations.

Refugees Appreciate Iran's 'Humanitarian Behavior'

LD1404112191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Cold, hunger, and sickness threaten the lives of tens of thousands of Iraqi refugees on the Sulaymaniyah-(Nowsud) road in Iraq. A Central News Unit correspondent reports from Bakhtaran:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The borders of Bakhtaran Province continue to witness the extensive arrival of Iraqi refugees, and tens of thousands of other refugees on the Sulaymaniyah-(Nowsud) road are facing critical conditions caused by cold and hunger. Twenty other children and elderly Iraqi refugees died before reaching the Islamic Republic's borders as a result of cold, hunger, and lack of warm clothing. Saber 'Ali Ahmad, who arrived in the Islamic Republic of Iran recently, in an interview with our correspondent, described the conditions inside Iraq as follows: Iraq's northern cities have been completely evacuated, and the Iraqi regime's forces have turned them into ruins. It must be said that the Iraqi regime is, in fact, ruling over ruins, not people.

Mohammad Ahmad Mahdi, an Iraqi pharmacist, said: In Chavar-Kelar District, I witnessed with my own eyes how the Ba'thist forces led those who were headed for the Iranian border toward the mine fields at gunpoint, and, unfortunately, 18 of those homeless people died crossing the mine fields. [end recording]

A female Iraqi refugee who is a doctor told IRNA in one of the refugee camps if that the UN guarantees Iraqi refugees will not be mistreated on their return or executed, she is prepared to return to Iraq immediately. This Iraqi doctor, who was severely disturbed by the heart-rending scenes of children dying on the roads and the spreading of gastric illnesses among children, added: In this camp, 200 children suffering from gastric illnesses are examined and treated every day.

An employee of the Iraqi Oil Company, said in the interview: The Islamic Republic of Iran is considered to be a real refuge for the Iraqi nation, especially for us refugees, and we are grateful for your humanitarian behavior.

Former Defense Minister Said Planning New Moves

NC1604141991 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 5 Apr 91 p 9

[Majdi al-Daqqaq report from Damascus: "A Third Military Front From Mosul Against Saddam"]

[Text] AL-MUSAWWAR has learned from political sources inside the Iraqi opposition that Major General Hasan al-Naqib, former Iraqi defense minister and one of the leaders of the pan-Arab movement opposed to the Saddam Husayn regime, will move to Mosul Governorate within two days to command two of the Iraqi Army's divisions and start military operations against the region.

These sources revealed to AL-MUSAWWAR that the leaders of the pan-Arab trend [al-tayyar al-qawmi al-'Arabi] have reached an agreement to open a third military front against the Saddam regime in Mosul in addition to the southern and northern fronts. The sources said that the opening of this military front will mark the start the establishment of an influential position for the pan-Arab trend in the Iraqi opposition's political and military arena.

The sources added that a number of Iraqi opposition leaders in Damascus, led by Hasan al-'Alawi, Maj. Gen. Hasan al-Naqib, Talib Shabib, and Dr. Fadil al-Ansari, decided after continual meetings in the Syrian capital to call on all of the pan-Arab and democratic forces to start a large-scale action to assess the outcome of the Beirut conference and to unite the pan-Arab elements in order to back the military move scheduled to start within the next few days.

Opposition Forces Attack Military Convoy

NC1604143291 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Formerly Voice of Free Iraq]

[Text] The command of the popular revolution forces in Iraq has announced that last Sunday units of the uprising attacked a military convoy belonging to the defeated tyrant's regime heading north on the Baghdad-al-Kut road. The heroic attack resulted in numerous deaths and injuries among convoy personnel. A number of vehicles were put out of commission and burned.

On the same day, the uprising forces managed to repulse an attack by the defeated tyrant regime's forces near Halabjah city on the road leading to Bawah city. The attacking force fled after sustaining heavy losses in life and equipment. About 50 of its personnel joined the uprising forces.

In another development, the dictator regime's aircraft shelled the city of Banjwin, martyring and wounding many civilian women and children.

Rebel Spokesman Rejects Bush Claim on Uprising

LD1404201591 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—A spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) on Sunday rejected U.S. President George Bush's claim that the popular uprising in Iraq was a settlement of accounts between Saddam Husayn and his political dissidents.

The SAIRI spokesman said "contrary to Bush's claim what is going on in Iraq is not a personal dispute since the whole Iraqi people have risen collectively throughout Iraq to get the right to self-determination and punish Saddam and his lackeys for their crimes against the people of the region and humanity."

He held the U.S. President responsible for what he called the genocide of people and gross breach of human rights in Iraq.

"How can it be explained that the U.S. President has allowed limited relief aid to certain Iraq refugees while at the same time the forces under his command have given the green light to Saddam to create such a tradegy against the refugees," he said.

SAIRI Head Comments on Uprising, Casualties

NC1604142891 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Formerly Voice of Free Iraq]

[Text] In an interview with the French paper LE MONDE, Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has expressed surprise at U.S. President Bush's statements describing the popular uprising as a settling of scores among adversaries.

He said the uprising is a popular revolution emanating from within the people. He noted that the martyrs from the Islamic organizations during the uprising did not exceed 50, while the martyrs among the people exceeded 100,000, which reflects the uprising's popularity.

The SAIRI head affirmed that representatives of SAIRI and the rest of the Iraqi opposition factions visited Saudi Arabia two months ago. He encouraged the developing of these meetings to serve the Iraqi people's interest and unity among Muslims. He described the French policy on the uprising as positive.

Lack of Trust Between Regime, Army Reported

NC1304085191 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] The regime is witnessing a deteriorating state of trust between it and the military establishment. The regime has recruited forces composed of agents and mercenaries from various Arab and African nationalities in a desperate attempt to suppress the escalating popular uprising.

This measure is another indication of the deep crisis between Saddam's regime and the Iraqi Army, which is stationed outside Baghdad. [words indistinct]

Levi on Prospects for Baker Mideast Visit

TA1704064491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Apr 91 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by David Makovsky—place and date not given]

[Text] Q: You said about Baker's visit last week that all the obstacles had been removed; are there indeed no differences between the U.S. and Israel on how to approach a peace parley?

A: I did not say "all" differences; I am being very precise: we removed the "mines" which were between us, mines which brought previous initiatives to a dead end; and these mines are known. For example, when in our original initiative we said we would aim to make peace with the Arab states, there were those in the Unity Government last year who said this could be a wish but not a condition, and so it would be impossible. Well, look, it is possible. They (the Americans) are working on a dual track, in that direction.

When we said then that the PLO, as it exists, is a terrorist organization which does not and cannot contribute to promoting peace, that meant there were conditions regarding the PLO. And today, in full view of the whole world, and certainly of the U.S., it is plain what that organization is, and with whom it stood when the world was faced by the test. And other issues that were mines were removed.

Now, the understanding between us and the U.S. is the cornerstone for that route. We need to pave it together. Of course, it depends very greatly on the Arab world wanting it...

Q: You also spoke of mines like East Jerusalem and deportees.

A: Certainly, all those points are known; but the situation is not what it was. There is a very marked improvement, and the understanding and agreements between us and the U.S. are, in the American's view, of decisive importance in the peace process.

Q: There are other differences—not just philosophical—but practical matters such as positions; from what you know of the U.S. positions, is it possible to bridge the gaps?

A: We have to study what Baker encountered in the Arab countries. We now have partial knowledge, according to which the door has not been slammed.

Q: Israel calls for a one-time regional meeting and the Syrians say they want a conference that can be reconvened in case of deadlock during direct negotiations. What about something in between, a conference that serves as framework throughout negotiations but which cannot impose anything on the parties? Could there be even a minor role for UN and/or the Europeans?

A: A basic thing: Israel does not say "no" to an international conference only out of caprice. But because the issue is one of substance: when you have an international conference, then the Arab countries or Arab leaders are not going to discuss peace with Israel, they are going to litigate.

Nothing will come of it, because each party will come to litigate with us, not to discuss, and will know that if things don't work out, they will again have someone to complain to. And this, instead of advancing peace, will bring about a deadlock, or a blowup, or a conflict between the participants, or a crisis between Israel and the U.S. No good will emerge from this—and therefore we altogether do not countenance this framework.

I said this in Europe: "Please consider: if, instead of the Paris conference dealing with European security, handling all the bilateral discussions, there had been (something else) in its place or previously among the parties, what would you have said? You'd have said it was no good. So I say it is impossible to put the cart before the horse..."

However, (it is okay) if the Soviet Union or even Europe will say they want to guarantee that arrangements we have already achieved with the Arab countries, face to face, will be maintained... But not at the start of a conference. Today, the U.S., tomorrow the Soviet Union, after that Europe, after that Japan? There's no limit to it.

Q: But, why not allow a conference the conference framework to continue throughout the negotiations, but will only be able to be reconvened upon the consent of both sides—thereby, providing Israel with a veto? [sentence as published]

A: We are speaking of hypothetical things, because you say: If this or that (occurs), then it distorts everything. We have to abide by the spirit of the approach, which has to be an innovation. If we go to a new approach with old tools, then what have we gained? Nothing...Rejectionism will remain rejectionism.

Q: Why not allow the UN and the Europeans to be observers at the opening meeting; would that be bad?

A: It starts that way and then there will occur just what Israel has been warning and ruled out. There are too many conflicting interests. Good will not come of this. As far as distorting the entire framework, you can't go ahead with salami tactics: we must speak truthfully. And I desire that there shall be no mistake here with the Secretary of State. We are speaking openly, sincerely, truthfully. We will listen.

Q: Minister Ari'el Sharon said he is building 13,000 housing units (in the territories). An official accompanying Baker said the Americans had gotten assurances from the Israelis that this could not happen without the approval of the government of Israel. Now we hear that's not so. You were at the Ministry of Housing; you surely

know how things are done. If it's about enlarging existing settlements, are no approvals needed? The question is: who is correct here?

A: To expand existing settlements, there is no need for government approval; that's true, it's the situation. I spoke my opinion. There should be no mistake. No promise was given that Israel would stop building in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. It's necessary to know this truth. There are, however, times that many declarations which are later taken note of and which cause damage.

Q: Is Ari'el Sharon trying to sabotage the process or even wishing to torpedo your own prospects of success?

A: Everyone has his own way, his own style. I have learned to live with all this.

Q: Do you recall that Menahem Begin, at the time of Camp David, also gave a promise to the effect that for a specified period, three months, we would not build anything in the territories? Perhaps, in the present conditions, that's worthwhile?

A: I am waiting for Secretary Baker; between us and the U.S., we have reached an understanding which is very important. He checked things out, and said there is optimism not pessimism—as reflected in all kinds of publications—and we should wait and listen and express our opinion, and hope...

Q: You have said that you prefer a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. But if the Arabs decide that the Palestinians should represent themselves at the parley, can Israel object?

A: We don't object. This issue is not a condition. We must work it out: if it is a meeting with states, then it will be states. But it won't be in place of the delegation, (as Israel will talk directly to the Palestinians during the dual-track negotiating) the business with the countries, and the business with the representation of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, concurrently; that's the real answer. We don't need to go round in circles. Nobody should say we want to by-pass the Palestinian issue. We sincerely wish to solve it. The meeting will be between states; that will fall into place. The delegation we shall speak with simultaneously over the issue of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

I do not rule out the Palestinian delegation (to the parley). I cannot yet say where such a delegation is; if such a one comes forward thinking it represents a state, do you think Israel will agree? Baker himself will not agree. We'll need to work out the status: I do not rule out a Palestinian delegation, if it accepts the Israeli initiative with its ramifications. If if says it wants a joint delegation—and I hear there are many supporters of a joint delegation—I don't rule it out. We'll see who accepts the initiative, who is willing and who isn't, who declares "I am PLO." Those are the rules.

Q: As foreign minister, do you see events different than you did before when you were a "constraints" minister? Perhaps the year's experience as foreign minister gives you a wider perspective. Is that possible?

A: We live in a cruel region, with the (Iraqi) aggression in the Gulf and what's happening today to the Kurds; we are witnessing the cruel slaughter of a whole people, they are destroying and starving children and women, and there is no one to save them. Pitiful cries are heard from the snow-covered mountains of Kurdistan, and the world sends food and medicines, and Israel must be careful. Should we pretend (we don't know what's going on) or should we look at the danger with open eyes?

If they are doing this to their own brothers, if they are murdering Christians in Lebanon, if they did what they did to Kuwait! And the smoke is still rising and spreading over distances... At this very moment, we receive reports from Syria on the acquisition of Scud missiles, chemical weapons, an extremist approach with their ideology, they do not conceal their intention that, when the day comes, they will be able to attack the State of Israel.

We are being asked to ignore this, as though nothing is happening, when every home in Israel is within range of their missiles.

Q: There is a debate over the value of strategic depth or territory in the age of Scud missiles, as you just said the Syrians can essentially hit Israel from every corner of their country.

A: Missiles are not decisive in war; they hurt. Whoever resorts to them knows he will receive a response, because he has crossed a certain line, a certain pattern of rules. But as much as we learned from the Gulf war, as much as improvements are developed, including satellites, the U.S. and (Gen. Norman) Schwarzkopf said one thing: without action on the ground, there is no victory. That is the answer. I accept that determination.

Look in a country like ours, where the distance between the Green Line and what is today the center of the state is 11 km., we know the importance of a powerful force cutting the country in half, which is something no missile can do.

Q: Do you agree with the view that Israel will discuss the territorial claims of both sides during talks with Syria?

A: I shall not be going to Syria to talk about the Golan Heights. I am going to talk to Syria in order to talk about peace. At that meeting, Syria can bring up anything it wants. Until we reach a peace treaty.

Q: So, shall we be having a conference already this summer?

A: I should like to hope. I see that if the U.S. secretary of state repeats that no door has been slammed shut; there could be continuing Arab rejectionism, but I don't regret that we have reached agreed points with the U.S. to build on.

I want to hope the U.S. will succeed in convincing (them), and the Arab countries' own interest is clear to them, that the road to peace will serve all of us and the region. The U.S. has great influence. The arms race will result in many victims, and enslave the economies of peoples, and essential services will be denied, and the development of the region will not occur, if there is an arms race. We see where it's leading. In addition, the rivalry between the U.S. and the Soviet Union is not what it once was, when it could be taken advantage of... The world has to march towards a new era. The slogan in the Gulf has to be that the war there must be the last.

Q: I would like to ask you some questions about the prime minister. Critics say that Prime Minister Shamir is maneuvering, and only wants the other side to refuse.

A: The proof against that is that we are progressing, we have reached understandings, Baker is emerging satisfied; he will surely arrive with new aspects, but we have agreed that nothing will be done behind Israel's back. What happened is a fact, which you will remember: how the government blew apart, the tension with the U.S., did it move peace ahead one iota or not? Relations today have improved—some said it was impossible, but today it's possible.

Q: Does it bother you that throughout his trips, Baker met virtually exclusively with Shamir?

A: It doesn't disturb me; only good should come out of it. I believe it will.

Q: Are there differences of approach or tone between you and the prime minister?

A: I don't delude myself; we'll have to solve more problems—and the understanding with the U.S. is important... I am optimistic about what I hear. I want to be sure about what I see. People who are cautiously optimistic—well, that's not a sin! If we have reached optimism and understanding with the U.S., then we should be optimistic. Either you believe you are dealing with a superpower or not. If you reach an understanding with it, and it goes to negotiations on the peace process, then one should be optimistic. it's an infectious thing. One need not be blind, but rather proceed with eyes wide open.

Q: But is the prime minister as optimistic as you are?

A: The prime minister was optimistic (with Baker talks) and spoke (in the cabinet) of the achievements attained, but of course there is another side: he had to mention what he thought, and all these issues need to be worked out. There are people who will ask if being tense is serious: I can be serious and be optimistic and give the people hope.

Baker Seen Pulling Back From Agreements

TA1704110391 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 Apr 91 p 2

[Report by Yo'el Esteron in Washington and Tzvi Gilat]

[Excerpt] "The U.S. Administration has gone back on understandings reached with Israel on two central issues linked to a regional meeting," a senior Israeli diplomat in Washington claimed yesterday in a background briefing to Israeli reporters. He said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker agreed with the position of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that the regional meeting would be a one-time affair and that following that there would be peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab states and direct negotiations on self rule for the Palestinians in the territories. But after his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Baker changed his stance and is now trying to keep the conference framework in the "background." The Israeli diplomat explained that the problem that could arise from that is that the conference framework would remain "the source of authority" when differences of opinion crop up in the direct talks.

The second agreement from which Baker pulled back is the participation of an East Jerusalem representative in the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. While the U.S.-Israeli agreement is that "there is no demand to include representatives from East Jerusalem and the diaspora in the delegation," the United States is now trying to check into the possibility of incorporating an East Jerusalem representative as a Jordanian appointment to the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. The diplomat assumed that the Israeli Government would not agree to such "solutions."

Jerusalem yesterday expressed similar concern about the two issues before Baker's visit tomorrow: First, it is feared that Baker plans to go back on the agreement over a one-time regional meeting and is tending to agree to a conference under some sort of international auspices. Shamir discussed the issue with European leaders who told him of their desire to take part in the process.

Another point Baker will probably raise in his talks will be the Palestinian representation. In the past it was agreed that the Israeli position would be taken into account in the process of making up the Palestinian delegation, but from various reports reaching Jerusalem it appears that Baker has agreed with Egypt and Saudi Arabia that they would help in composing the list. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1000 GMT on 17 April, in a similar report, adds that "in Jerusalem the feeling was that understanding had been reached with the United States that there must be no possibility of recalling the plenum or the forum. Now it transpires that in conversations with the Syrians, Washington did not rule out a recall for certain purposes, for example to discuss arms limitation, the sharing of water resources, or other regional problems."]

Shoval on 'Change' in U.S. Position, Baker Trip

TA1704061591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Telephone interview with Zalman Shoval, ambassador to the United States, by Gay Zohar—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Good morning, Ambassador Shoval.

[Shoval] Good morning.

[Zohar] Today is the eve of Independence Day; therefore, you can perhaps understand the concern that the United States will step up its pressure during Secretary of State Baker's upcoming visit. Are these fears justified?

[Shoval] I would not use terms such as fear or pressure. After all, a great deal of understanding was reached with the Israeli Government during Mr. Baker's previous visit here. I believe that a foundation on which to continue the process was definitely established. We do not know exactly what Baker heard at all his stopovers in Arab and European capitals after visiting Israel; however, I think that the current visit should not be seen as an attempt to exert pressure—which may not even be necessary—but rather as a desire to tie the remaining loose ends.

[Zohar] Is there any change in the U.S. position? How can we explain the fact that while here, the secretary of state seemingly pointed to a series of understandings he had achieved with Israel, while today the position exhibited by Washington speaks of a representative for East Jerusalem, and a continuing role for the framework of the regional conference?

[Shoval] Look, these are hypothetical questions, and there is no point in addressing them. We do not know of any changes. Also, no concluding agreements were reached that are binding in any final sense. After all, after his talks in Jerusalem, Baker met with Arab officials, and other issues may have cropped up. I think that the U.S. secretary of state is aware of the fundamental Israeli positions. The State of Israel has shown flexibility on a many issues, and there are certain things that it cannot, and does not want to be flexible about. These are issues that are crucial to our survival; however, I do not sense any fundamental change in the U.S. position toward the Israeli approach. Therefore, I am certainly optimistic, or at any rate cautiously optimistic.

[Zohar] What do you think of the fact that Baker will also go to Amman, or in other words what do you think of closer relations between the United States and Jordan?

[Shoval] Look, beyond the question of U.S.-Jordanian relations, both Israel and the United States share an interest in reintegrating Jordan in the peace process. After all, most of the Palestinian nation lives in Jordan and most Jordanians are Palestinian. King Husayn's attempt to cut himself off from the Palestinian issue several years ago failed. I would say, therefore, that it is only natural for Jordan to be reincluded in the process, if this becomes possible. I imagine that Mr. Baker is going to examine that possibility.

[Zohar] Would it be correct to assume that we have been hearing less about the expected visit of President Bush because of the holdup in securing agreement between Israel and the Arabs regarding the framework of the talks?

[Shoval] No. The question was not put accurately. No one said anything about a visit by President Bush, at least not at this stage. Therefore, no one can talk about the cancellation of a visit that was not even discussed. I am not familiar with President Bush's plans. He may or may not visit. That, however, is a U.S. matter.

[Zohar] Thank you very much, Ambassador Shoval.

Levi: 'No Commitment' To Stop Settlement

TA1604123891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Excerpt] No commitment was given to anybody to stop settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, Foreign Minister David Levi said today. The foreign minister warned about superfluous declarations that would bring about pressure on Israel. Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar spoke with Minister Levi a few minutes ago when he left the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee:

[Begin recording] [Levi] First, you should know that I clarified the matter, and the settlement was authorized years ago. The land was bought by private entrepreneurs. I clarified it with the defense establishment and permission was issued. I cannot say anything beyond what I was told.

[Gilhar] Are you satisfied with the timing?

[Levi] No commitment was given to anybody to stop settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. On the other hand, I would like to warn against superfluous declarations and all sorts of remarks by individuals among us, since even if the people do not want it, they will only bring about pressure on Israel. Why act like that? One does not build with trumpets; the walls of Jericho fell due to trumpets. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Accuses Sharon of Sabotaging Peace Efforts

TA1604115991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has reacted very sharply to the accusations Minister Sharon voiced against him last night at the Likud headquarters during a meeting of the party's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Even though this verbal duel has been going

on for a long time, it has escalated and is deteriorating as the talks with Baker intensify. Still, neither is prepared to name the other in the open. Thus, if Sharon last night talked about those who danced on the rooftops and with whom, for some odd reason, the foreign minister is prepared to talk, now Foreign Minister David Levi has responded. In fact, he referred to those who sound the trumpets and whose conduct is destructive.

[Begin Levi recording] I would like to warn against unnecessary declarations and all sorts of expressions by certain individuals among us which will only result in pressure on Israel, even if that is not the intention of those who utter them. Why act like this? Sounding the trumpets has never been constructive; it only made the walls of Jericho come tumbling down. This should always be remembered. I am speaking as an experienced person who has accomplished things in Judaea and Samaria for 13 years. I am saying that there is no need to make things difficult for the Cabinet; push it into adopting a policy it has not embraced; or unearth plans that utterly conflict with the foundations on which it was established, its basic guidelines, or even the Likud's platform, in the name of what someone calls concern. I hear calls for the government to withdraw its support for the Camp David accords or its initiative, which was endorsed by the incumbent government as well. But all these declarations are meant only to pose difficulties and, God forbid, also torpedo the government's efforts to promote the peace process in accordance with its initiative, its basic guidelines, and its professed policy, which is also anchored in the Likud platform. [end recording]

What Levi was actually saying is that Sharon intends to sabotage the peace efforts—an extremely serious accusation. Later he was again called upon to comment on Sharon's attacks on him last night. Here is the latter part of the foreign minister's response:

[Begin Levi recording] Any reference to such remarks only exposes the true face of the one who made them. He knows the truth, but thinks that by creating a Kafkaesque atmosphere he will confuse people, divert attention from the most important thing, and possibly thwart the government's efforts. With his accusation he is actually pointing a finger at the cabinet as a whole, but his personal attack is aimed at me. I have often seen such action lead neither to progress, to anything constructive, nor to success, but rather to the opposite of all this. I hope that the cabinet will be able to stand its ground, as warranted by this destructive behavior. [end recording]

Revava Declared Closed After 15 Apr Demonstration

TA1504104191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Following the protest demonstration staged this morning by left-wing elements against the establishment of the Samaria settlement of Revava, Gush Emunim has dispatched a wire to the defense minister demanding that the earthwork on the site be resumed immediately and that the left-wingers—in the words of the telegram—who obstruct the works be stopped at once.

After the left-wing demonstrators—MAPAM [United Workers Party], CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], and Shinuy members—left the settlement site at the demand of the police late this morning, the site was declared a closed military area.

The demonstrators said that they are determined to prevent the establishment of the settlement.

IDF Denies Coordination on Settlement

TA1604121091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Contrary to the Gush Emunim announcement, official military sources have reported that the timing and execution of the founding of the settlement of Revava were not coordinated with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Uri Ari'el, secretary general of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea and Samaria, said this morning that the operation was fully coordinated with all the relevant bodies, including the IDF; however, military sources told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that as far as they know, the bodies that deal with the issue and the IDF were aware of the intention to set up the settlement, but the IDF was not informed of the precise date for its establishment. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that 14 mobile homes have already been brought to the site and another 16 will be set up soon. Revava was again declared a closed military zone at noon and all the journalists were sent away.

All the opposition factions have decided to present no-confidence motions in the government over the Revava settlement and construction in the territories. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Alignment faction decided a short time ago to join the other opposition factions. Shevah Weiss, the acting Alignment faction chairman, said the government is being deceptive, because while the foreign minister is leading a peace process, the construction and housing minister cuts him off rudely. On the face of it, the government is supporting the foreign minister, but that does not prevent several ministers from sabotaging our relations with the United States.

Yosi Sarid, speaking for the Citizens Rights Movement, said that the establishment of Revava two days before U.S. Secretary of State Baker's arrival is like planting a bomb on his plane.

On the other hand, Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen said that Tehiya praises the government for the establishment of Revava. Settlement expansion in Judaea and Samaria was one of the preconditions for Tehiya's joining the government, and the Cabinet committed itself to this in

the basic guidelines. Ge'ula Kohen said that any additional settlements at this time are not an obstacle to peace, but to our enemies' dreams about a Palestinian state.

Settlement Freeze, EC Conference Role Rejected

TA1604181091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Jack Katzenell]

[Text] Israel will not agree to any linkage between the removal of the 42-year Arab boycott and demands for a freeze on Jewish settlements in the territories. An official in Jerusalem told me today: The lifting of the boycott is one of the measures the Arab countries could reasonably take on the way to ending the state of belligerency with Israel, while no Israeli government—not even a dovish left-wing government—could accept the premise that Jews do not have the right to live anywhere in the land of Israel, although different parties disagree on how and where this right should be exercised.

But, an American diplomatic source told me: It is by no means certain that Secretary of State Baker is going to offer such a deal, and the reports from Washington to that effect are highly speculative. On his previous visits, the secretary concentrated on the issues on which progress might be accomplished—for example, convening a regional forum while postponing the thornier issues, such as the settlements. The Americans feel that Israel's Minister of Housing Ari'el Sharon and the Gush Emunim settlement organization, which established a new settlement in Samaria last night, are trying to force the issue. And, in the Americans' view, this could lead to deadlock.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has been telling the European countries that Israel will not agree to participation by the EC in the regional forum. In Israel's view, several leading European countries are motivated essentially by their economic interests in the Arab world. Their participation would turn a compact forum into a cumbersome international conference, in which Israel would be haggling with the sponsors instead of negotiating with the Arabs.

Gaza Dignitary Expresses Thanks for U.S. Efforts

TA1604180191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] With regard to Mr. Baker's upcoming visit to Israel, Mr. As'ad al-Saftawi, a Gaza dignitary, has expressed his appreciation for the efforts being exerted by the U.S. Administration toward effecting a convergence of views between the Palestinians and the Israelis. In a statement to our correspondent, Kayid Zahir, Mr. al-Saftawi stressed that in order to achieve real progress in the peace process, it is necessary for the two sides to realize that the solution will have to be in consecutive stages as a result of reciprocal and positive steps by the two sides.

On Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal, Mr. al-Saftawi said that the regional conference is the first step. He suggested that the EC countries should be allowed to play a role in this conference.

Labor Party To Complain to Police of Likud Break-in

TA1304174191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] The Labor Party will submit a complaint to the police against the Likud in the wake of MA'ARIV reports that during the last elections men working for the Likud broke into the Alignment's campaign headquarters in Tel Aviv's Dan Hotel and photographed documents there.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Alignment will also present twenty signatures to the Knesset speaker tomorrow and request that this issue be raised during the debate at the Knesset plenum scheduled to take place in two days. On 15 April the Knesset plans to discuss the meetings with Secretary of State Baker and their results.

Likud Spokesmen Deny Involvement

TA1304193191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1815 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Labor Party wishes to investigate whether Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo, former head of the Likud's campaign headquarters, knew about the incident. This was reported by our correspondent Hanan 'Azran.

A Labor Party spokeswoman this evening said that the Alignment will demand the convening of a special Knesset session to discuss this matter.

Minister Milo's spokesman told our correspondent Gadi Sukenik that the minister is in no way connected to the affair and knows nothing about it.

The Likud spokesman retorted by saying that the Watergate balloon had exploded because there was nothing to accuse the Likud.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 13 April adds: "The Likud rejects the Labor Party's intention to submit a complaint to the police and to the attorney general. In reaction to the MA'ARIV reports our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz was told that the Likud had not engineered the break-in into the Alignment's campaign headquarters in Tel Aviv's Dan Hotel during the 1988 election campaign, had made no use of the information that was collected as a result of the break-in, and had not paid for it."]

Netanyahu on Withdrawal From Territories

LD1404220191 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu by correspondent Istvan Kulcsar in Jerusalem; date not given—Netanyahu remarks in English with superimposed Hungarian translation]

[Text] [Kulcsar] Can it be said from the standpoint of the Israeli Government that some kind of change has taken place?

[Netanyahu] There is no change in Israel's desire for peace. Our country was slandered when it became the victim of Arab aggression. It was made to look like the perpetrator of the aggression, whereas it was the victim. We have always wanted peace and stressed that the main problem is that the Arabs are not willing to recognize the borders of Israel in any form. The Arabs have always said that they will not sit down to talk with Israel on a bilateral basis, only if there is some kind of collective assembly. To this we have now said: All right, let us sit down at the multilateral negotiating table. So, we have taken this step. Now it is the Arabs' turn.

[Kulcsar] In the Israeli Government's opinion, who can take part in the regional conference?

[Netanyahu] We will sit down with any Arab government, any Arab leader who recognizes Israel's right to exist. After all, we can not sit down at the negotiating table with someone who wants to annihilate us. This is one of the basic principles of international relations. In general we do not believe in multilateral talks because they do not lead to results. We favor a direct exchange of views. But if such a formal and preliminary multilateral conference can promote direct discussions, then we are ready to take part in them.

[Kulcsar] Mr. Deputy Minister, is Israel willing to withdraw from the occupied zones?

[Netanyahu] First of all, Israel has already withdrawn from the territory. What is more, it has vacated 91 percent of the territory occupied in the war of self-defense. The Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 oblige Israel not to vacate the territory but to vacate territory. It was a result of a very heated debate that the United Nations got as far as removing the article the. In other words, we do not necessarily have to withdraw from all the territory. Now that we have vacated 91 percent of the territory, it is the Arabs' turn to make concessions. Unfortunately, there are no more deserts like the Sinai which was returned to Egypt. And the border of the (?West Bank) is 17 kilometers from the Tel Aviv coast. Israel cannot exist on the territory the size of a pinhead. For this reason we are going to the talks with the desire to assure our defense and to keep those small territories which are necessary for our survival. The Arabs will also make their own proposals and so will we. This is precisely the essence of the talks.

Government Revenues Short of Forecast

TA1204123491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Apr 91 p 17

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Excerpt] Government revenue for 1990/91 fell short of Finance Ministry predictions by a whopping NIS [new Israeli shekels] 1.5 billion, forcing officials to borrow more from the public, and to draw heavily on the government's deposit at the Bank of Israel.

Total revenue for the 1990/91 fiscal year, which ended on March 31, was NIS 32.640 [figure as published].

According to State Revenue Director Yoram Gabay, the shortfall in revenue began in the past few months, and can be blamed on a number of reasons. For one thing, revenue in January, February and March was considerably lower than expected, due to the general drop in economic activity brought on by the Gulf War, as well as the decision by ministry officials to allow many firms, hurt by the crisis, to delay income tax payments for several months.

Gabay also reported that beginning in November, there were many fewer real estate transactions than expected. "The new immigrants bought fewer apartments than was predicted," he explained.

A third reason that government revenue did not reach the predicated level was that income tax rebates to banks and companies were larger than planned, as many in the business sector, on a whole, reported far lower profits than the Treasury had counted on. At the same time, revenue from the Customs and Value Added Tax Authority was not affected. [passage omitted]

Increase in Unemployment Alters Aliyah Forecasts

TA1104092791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Apr 91 pp 1, 10

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer and Bill Hutman]

[Text] As tens of thousands of new immigrants begin to look for work—and dramatically swell the mushrooming ranks of unemployed—potential immigrants in the Soviet Union are having second thoughts about aliya.

The National Insurance Institute [NII], meanwhile, reported yesterday that new applications for unemployment compensation rose by 35 percent in March, the largest monthly increase in the past few years.

Mikha'el Kleiner, chairman of the Knesset immigration committee, reported that far fewer Soviet Jews than expected will make aliya this year because of growing fears they won't find work here.

Deputy Labor Minister Menahem Porush confirmed that a large number of those joining the ranks of the unemployed are new immigrants. "Two-hundred thousand immigrants arrived last year," he told Army Radio.

"Beginning now, new immigrants who until now have been studying in ulpans will be hitting the job market every month."

He denied that the drop in immigration pointed to a failure by the government, saying that while the government was completely unprepared for the massive immigration, it could not be faulted for this, since it "came as a complete surprise."

According to the NII statistics, a total of 14,400 new applications were filed, as compared to 10,634 applications in February. In total, the number of requests for unemployment compensation, including those that had received compensation in the previous month or months, increased by 9 percent, to a total of 62,800.

In several towns with large numbers of new immigrants, an even more dramatic increase was noted. In Nazareth, the number of new applications rose by 126 percent, in Tiberias by 79.5 percent, in the Haifa bayside suburbs by 66 percent, and in 'Afula by 64 percent.

Individuals are eligible to receive unemployment compensation for a maximum of six months. Total unemployment figures have hovered around 10 percent for the past few months.

In an official statement, NII officials downplayed the statistics, saying that the sudden jump could be attributed to the Gulf war, since it is possible that during the war, fewer people bothered to apply.

But privately, NII sources acknowledged their concern, saying that, even if part of the sudden increase can be attributed to the war, the jump is so dramatic that a large part must be due to a genuine rise in unemployment. "The statistics show a definite change in the situation," commented one official.

Talk of public works programs, similar to those implemented in the U.S. during the Great Depression, is spreading through government offices, including the Finance Ministry, which had until now resisted this step for budgetary reasons.

Kleiner urged the government to adopt such a program as soon as possible. He told THE JERUSALEM POST that, unless the government implements New Deal-like programs to create jobs, only 200,000 immigrants will arrive in 1991, instead of the more than 300,000 expected. He based his figures on reports obtained from senior immigration officials here and in the USSR.

Criminal Charges Against Der'i Recommended

TA1404055091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The police are investigating the suspicion that illegal use was made of the donation funds of several societies with which Religious Affairs Minister Avner Sciaki is connected. The police have already presented the minister with questions on this matter. Our police correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that this investigation is unrelated to a previous affair of societies which were managed by the religious affairs minister's relatives and aides.

Meanwhile, the police have completed the investigation into the main case under inquiry—fund transfers to SHAS [Torah-Observing Sephardim] via local authorities. Most of the police files, which have been relayed to the state attorney's office, contain a recommendation to put Minister Arye Der'i on trial on criminal charges.

Our correspondent has learned that in one of the files, the interior affairs minister is suspected of transferring state funds earmarked for environmental projects to SHAS.

Two investigations are still in progress: The investigation into the personal suspicions against Minister Der'i and the one related to the financing of the SHAS election campaign. On the latter issue, the police are waiting for the return from abroad of SHAS Knesset Member Ya'ir Levi, who has agreed to be interrogated.

Al-Masri on Regional Conference, U.S. Ties

JN1304203291 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri denied that Jordan has accepted peace formulas that do not aim at reaching a comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. al-Masri said: Jordan attaches great importance to the formula according to which work will begin, adding that it should also aim at solving the problems according to international legitimacy. The foreign minister told JNA that he informed the United States secretary of state in Geneva that Jordan believes that an international peace conference was the best framework to achieving progress. He said a peaceful solution should be based on implementing the United Nations Resolutions, particularly 242 and 338. Mr. al-Masri said he told Mr. Baker on the need for Palestinian participation in the peace process, asserting that Jordan will not be an alternative or a substitute to the PLO.

Our reporter Maha al-Sha'ir asked Mr. al-Masri if Secretary Baker presented any new proposals at the Geneva meeting:

[Begin recording] [al-Masri] I do not think I can describe it as new. He did not offer anything new. Maybe, the only thing that I can say is new is the conference that he is suggesting, because it is not the conference that we think is the right thing to do at this moment, and this is what is called the regional conference. But I believe that we have heard from our friends, from the media, what Baker has been proposing; and we had to go and discuss every idea and every thing that he suggested. For us as officials, there is nothing... [corrects himself], not much new in the American thinking.

[Al-Sha'ir] Mr. Baker, it was written in the JORDAN TIMES that Mr. Baker discussed about a Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. Can you describe this to us.

[Al-Masri] Well, there is nothing final yet. I do not think that the Americans have in mind a joint delegation so far. I think they tend to suggest that a Palestinian delegation should be talking to the Israelis in the second track, which is the Palestinian track. You know that the first track is the Arab-Israeli dialogue. But that idea, the joint delegation, is in the air. It is on the table. But, I cannot say that it is ticking [as heard] very much or it is going to be implemented.

[Al-Sha'ir] How do you foresee the Jordanian-American relations now?

[Al-Masri] They are improving. That meeting with Secretary Baker certainly has done a lot to improve the relations. And they have promised that they will be doing their best to release the aid to Jordan. You know that the Congress has vetoed, I think, or decided to cut aid from Jordan and that President Bush has taken some action to prevent that. And I think in the months ahead, you will see some apparent improvement of these relations. [end recording]

Paper Opposes Acceptance of Baker's Proposals

JN1204075591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Apr 91 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The Arabs...and Baker's Proposals"]

[Text] It seems that Washington has prepared a plan to separate the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli dispute and transform them into bilateral matters in which Israel would play the leading role, requiring each Arab party to approach Israel individually to discuss its own concerns. It is notable that this plan, which Baker is bringing to Cairo in the form of proposals, begins by dismissing the idea of an international conference and replacing it with a regional conference, which was agreed on between the U.S. secretary of state and the Israeli foreign minister during their recent talks in Israel. These proposals also set as two basic conditions the elimination of the intifadah and the exclusion of the PLO's role. Without these conditions, the Palestine question can have no place in any future talks with Israel, according to the proposals. Furthermore, these proposals—as reported by the media—open the door for Israel to play an important part in security arrangements in the region. They might also give precedence over the Arab-Israeli dispute to the water issue and Israel's role in it. Thus, it can be said that Baker's proposals would reshuffle cards, change priorities, and give Israel the pivotal role in the region. Also, the bilateral approach that characterizes Baker's talks in the region, which does not exclude discrimination, could transform these talks into a dangerous mechanism that would divide Arab ranks and cultivate Arab positions opposed to these talks. Thus, Israel would be spared the effort to face a unified Arab position, and Washington would be able to materialize the fragmentation it has prepared for the Arab-Israeli dispute in the form of unilateral Arab-Israeli agreements, similar to what happened at the Camp David accords.

Therefore, the news carried by the media citing statements by the Egyptian foreign minister to the effect that he does not insist on the international conference, as well as the possibility of Cairo's acceptance of a regional conference, causes us concern. This news also signals that Cairo could subscribe to a fundamental issue that would affect the future of the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli dispute without properly consulting with other Arab parties. This, in turn, would produce unilateral decisionmaking by individual Arab countries—behavior that would entail a serious setback for Arab action, which was united for decades on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli dispute until being dealt the first blow by the Camp David accords a few years ago. Also, there is a growing fear such behavior might materialize toward the Baker proposals—which could, in turn, deal another strong blow to the unity of Arab action, which should be safeguarded.

Arab conduct toward these proposals, regardless of its positive and negative aspects, should not be transformed into a weapon that fragments what is left of Arab solidarity. It is important for us to remember that the U.S. success in fragmenting the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli dispute and giving Israel a leading, dominating position in the region can never be achieved without fragmenting Arab solidarity and creating a new legitimacy of inter- Arab relations based on unilateral decisionmaking and conduct.

We warn again of this danger and renew the call for Arab solidarity and joint Arab action to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian and Arab people, so that our future will be better than our past and present.

Labor Minister Announces Population Statistics

JN1104104991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11-12 Apr 91 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—By the end of 1990 Jordan's population stood at 3,453,000, but the number is expected to rise to 4,849,000 by the end of the present century and 5,670,000 by the year 2005, according to the results of a study conducted by the National Population Committee.

Minister of Labour 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, in his capacity as committee chairman, announced the results, which, he said, resulted from the study conducted by a team of local experts supervised by the National Population Committee (NPC).

The team prepared several working papers dealing with fertility, mortality rates, immigration rates, based on the 1951-1990 estimates, so as to help reach the results, the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The committee's Secretary General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi al-'Akl told Petra that a general census, conducted by the Department of Statistics in 1979, was also used to work out the estimates about the population of the country.

He said that between 1980 and 1985 the normal population growth in Jordan was at the rate of 3.4 per cent annually, and that this rate, plus estimates about migration rates, helped compile sufficient material for the study.

Mr. al-'Akl said that the study expected that the annual population growth would drop to 3.1 per cent between 2001 and 2005.

According to the study, the rate of births will be around 34.6 per thousand while the mortality rate will stand at nearly 6.12 per thousand between 1990 and 1995. Life expectancy for males was put at 64 while for females it was 68, Mr. al-'Akl said.

According to the 1990 figures, young people, within the 15-year-age group, formed 43.6 per cent of the total population of Jordan, but will only make up 39.7 per cent of the population by the year 2005, Mr. al-'Akl pointed out.

He said that the 15 to 64-age-group, those able to work, would rise from 53.5 per cent in 1991 to nearly 57.2 per cent by the year 2005. [passage omitted]

King Exchanges 'Id al-Fitr Cables With Leaders

JN1504123591 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] His majesty the king exchanged cables of congratulations with Arab, Muslim, and friendly heads of states on 'Id al-Fitr holidays. Cables of congratulations on the 'Id were exchanged with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Sultan Qabus of Oman, King Hassan II of Morocco, Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Sudanese head of state General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Turkish President Turgut Ozal, President Najibullah of Afghanistan; as well as the presidents of Chad, Niger, Maldives, the Comoros Islands, and Bangladesh.

His majesty the king also received cables of congratulations on the 'Id from U.S. President George Bush, Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro, Philippines President Corazon Aquino, Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, the Speaker of the Palestine National Council Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, and the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan Brigadier General 'Umar al-Khatib.

Israeli Navy Attacks Palestinian Boat off Tyre

NC1704061791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The Israeli Navy shelled a boat carrying eight Palestinian gunmen off Tyre yesterday. The Palestinians were en route to a northern Israeli settlement, where they planned to carry out a military operation. The boat sustained a direct hit and it is believed that its eight passengers all drowned. According to Israeli sources, apart from bloodstains, the boat was empty when it was seized.

Army Halts Hizballah-Amal Clash in South 16 Apr

NC1704091591 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Hizballah and Amal members clashed in 'Ayn Qana in the al-Nabatiyah area of the South last night. A Lebanese Army detachment immediately intervened and arrested five combatants, whose names are Hasan Mallah, 'Abbas Mallah, Rabi' Matar, Wisam Madi, and Zuhayr Faqih.

Al-Hirawi Stresses 'Diplomatic' South Liberation

NC1604185191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has affirmed that the march [toward peace] will be completed all the way, and the Cabinet will make all of the decisions. He hoped that everyone will be reasonable and show genuine Lebanese patriotism.

Speaking after a meeting with Patriarch Ignatius IV Hazim at the Roman Orthodox Bishopric, al-Hirawi said: Everyone must know that the peace march bears no rancor or grudges against anyone, whether Lebanese or non-Lebanese. He added: It is the responsiblity of the state to provide security and stability to whoever is residing on Lebanese territory.

The president stressed that the liberation of the South will be achieved rationally and through diplomatic channels, and we can see signs of this in the promises made to us at the regional and international levels. He added: Should this march run into obstacles or should we fail, the regime will then take a stand on the liberation of the south. From now on, the liberation will not be a monopoly for anyone, but will be for the entire Lebanese people, he added.

Karami, Buwayz on Weapons Handover, Palestinians

NC1704072591 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has stressed that every effort must be made to secure the implementation of the outstanding provisions of the al-Ta'if accord. Karami underlined Syria's role in this regard and its support for the Lebanese Government.

The prime minister denied that the Palestinians and Hizballah have ruled out a handover of their weapons to the state, noting that public statements are not an accurate reflection of what is taking place behind the scenes. Karami said that the al-Ta'if accord stipulatates that anything that applies to the Lebanese must also apply to others. He reiterated that there is a way to overcome every obstacle.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said he hopes the ongoing negotiations with the Palestinian side result in an acceptable solution that guarantees Lebanon's sovereignty and the safety of the Palestinian brothers in Lebanon. Minister Buwayz expressed the hope that the negotiations will not stumble and will produce the desired results.

Ibrahim Briefs Karami on Talks With PLO

NC1704152791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The political wheel began to move, albeit slowly, on the third day of the 'Id al-Fitr holiday in preparation for the resumption of activity tomorrow. Mediator Muhsin Ibrahim [leader of the Communist Action Organization] and Minister Muhsin Dallul this morning called on Prime Minister 'Umar Karami in Tripoli. Ibrahim briefed Prime Minister Karami on the outcome of his talks with Palestinian officials in Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya on the issue of Palestinian weapons.

Although Ibrahim emphasized the positive Palestinian position, it has been noticed that a positive response by the Palestinians is dependent on the implementation of UN Resolution 425. Following his meeting with Prime Minister Karami, Ibrahim said that the PLO's position has been positive and that the group is prepared to carry out all the requirements for the implementation of Resolution 425, which provides for the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from the south. He said: We can say that there is Palestinian support, expressed by the PLO leadership, for the Lebanese national reconciliation process both in the political and security sense. The PLO leadership also expressed support for Lebanon and for the liberation of the south on the basis of Resolution 425. He expressed the hope that this will constitute a step toward the achievement of national accord and the liberation of the south.

In response to a question, Ibrahim said that the officials, foremost President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Karami, have all the facts in their possession. He said: I am confident that they will be able to manage the reconciliation process.

Answering another question, he affirmed that the Palestinians will be back Lebanon in everything it does to implement the national accord measures and to implement Resolution 425. He said that the results were positive and that the Palestinian position has been friendly and positive. He said the organization is ready

to take all the necessary measures to help the Lebanese state implement its authority over its entire territory.

Government-Palestinian Talks on Weapons, Demands

NC1504182991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Highly placed sources told Voice of Lebanon that the meetings between government officials and representatives of the various Palestinian factions in Beirut have demonstrated the Palestinians' desire for dialogue with the Lebanese state. The dialogue, according to the sources, aims at working out an agreement on the Palestinians' status in Lebanon, not only regarding their weapons but also the Palestinians' political and social demands.

The sources said that a Palestinian team is ready to transfer weapons to the al-Biqa' area. Regarding the weapons belonging to the PLO fighters in Sidon and some parts of the south, the Palestinians agree to withdraw to the camps to facilitate the Lebanese army deployment in new parts of the south. But the PLO fighters, the sources added, refuse to hand over their weapons to Lebanese authority in order to defend the camps' residents.

Concerning the Palestinian political demands, the sources disclosed that the Palestinians want to open an embassy for the state of Palestine in Beirut similar to their embassies in Arab and foreign countries. The Palestinians also request that work permits be granted to Palestinians in various establishments in Lebanon. The sources noted that the Lebanese authorities believe that the Palestinian stand is intricate, and the issues involved should be tackeled separately to avert any bloody confrontation.

The sources added that during several sessions the cabinet members agreed not to accept any Palestinian weapons in Beirut and Tripoli. But as for the withdrawal of weapons from the Palestinian camps in the south, an agreement should be reached regarding the type of weapons because heavy- and medium-caliber weapons are banned. Only light-caliber weapons would be acceptable but for a limited period of time until the state army completes its deployment throughout Lebanon.

As for the Palestinian demand to open an embassy and the issue of work permits, these two issues could be discussed during the Cabinet meeting.

Lahd on Camp Prisoners, Hostages, South Security

JN1604115891 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0930 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Interview with Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, SLA, by Shafiq Mansur from the "The Midday Events" program; place, date not given—all passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] My conversation with SLA Commander Maj. Gen. Antoine Lahd centered on two basic topics. The first, the plans to free a number of detainees from the al-Khiyam detention camp in the security belt in southern Lebanon and the possibility of linking this with the release of foreign and Israeli hostages held in Lebanon. The second topic concerned the possibility of applying Security Council Resolution No. 425 to Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, the SLA position on developments in Lebanon, and relations with Israel. Regarding the release of detainees from the al-Khiyam detention camp on the occasion of the felicitous 'Id al-Fitr, Maj. Gen. Lahd said:

"There is nothing compelling us to free prisoners on feast days only. We usually free them on feast days as well as other occasions. I believe we can free some prisoners but I cannot set a date. If this issue is linked with that of the foreign and Israeli hostages, the SLA can hold negotiations. We cannot change our rules now. We free some people from time to time. Freeing large numbers of prisoners in al-Khiyam will need negotiations, as we have previously said."

Regarding the future of the security belt in southern Lebanon, Maj. Gen. Lahd said:

"Undoubtedly, everyone is talking about the implementation of Resolution 425. In the past, they have talked about the truce resolutions, but the Lebanese Government did not explain to people the reason why the two resolutions were not implemented. I personally believe that the Arab countries have decided to keep the border between the Lebanese state and Israel open to military operations, regardless of the results. The Lebanese Government has been unable to control southern Lebanon since 1967, and more specifically, since 1969. Some Libyan, Syrian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and other adventurists have persuaded the Arabs that the road to Jerusalem passes only through the Lebanese-Israeli border rather than through the Golan, Jordan, or Egypt. In light of this, I believe that decisionmaking is no longer in the hands of the Lebanese Government. In my view, the resolution cannot be applied unless the problems between Syria and Israel are solved. Officials say that the Americans will pressure Israel. If this is true, I can ask: What can the Americans do to convince the adventurist Arabs that the road to Jerusalem does not pass only through the Lebanese-Israeli border? I believe the Americans may persuade Israel, but it will be difficult for them to convince these groups of people so that a solution can be worked out."

Maj. Gen. Ladh held those whom he described as adventurist Arabs responsible for events in Lebanon, and denied that Israel wanted to occupy parts of Lebanon. He said:

"We, the SLA, will stay in this area to protect every inch of Lebanese territory and to maintain security for the people in the border area. However, no Israeli leader or official has said that he has designs on Lebanon. If the

Lebanese Government believes it has the right to make a decision in this regard, it should ask Egypt how it concluded an agreement under which the Israeli Army left all Sinai and Egyptian territory. We have not been annexed like the Golan or east Jerusalem. The Israelis will leave this area, but the Lebanese Government should know the way that will lead to this end."

SLA Commander Urges Lebanese-Israeli Agreement

NC1304180191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], in an interview with REUTER today, called for a peace agreement between Lebanon and Israel so Lebanon can obtain an Israeli withdrawal, as Egypt did. Lahd said that the efforts of the Lebanese Government to bring about Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon will not be successful soon, adding that such a decision cannot be implemented unless the problems between Israel and Syria are resolved.

In the same interview, Lahd spoke about the possibility of releasing some prisoners from the al-Khiyam prison, but said he cannot set a date for such a move. Lahd said that there are no plans to release all the 300 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners in al-Khiyam. He added: If we want to talk about [the release of] large numbers from the al-Khiyam prison, there should be negotiations on that issue linked with all the foreign and Israeli hostages as well as the SLA elements.

Palestinian Spokesman Urges Continued Resistance

NC1204210191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Walid Khalid, official spokesman for Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, has said: We have expressed our people's complete readiness to respond positively to all steps that lead to the imposition of legitimacy and the control of all Lebanese soil. It is the wrong approach, however, to deal with the Palestinian people as a militia. He added: We support the idea of organizing the Palestinian presence in Lebanon on the basis of preserving its right to resist the Israeli occupation at the side of all resistance and Islamic fighters, both with regard to the liberation of the South and to complete the liberation of Palestine.

FRC Acknowledges Two Killed in 14 Apr Clash

NC1504082191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Israeli Army sources said massive concentrations of armed Palestinians have been observed in the Palestinian camp of al-Rashidiyah and in Tyre and Sidon. The sources noted an increase recently in attempts to infiltrate the border strip.

In a statement released in Sidon, Fatah-the Revolutionary Council [FRC] announced the death of two of its members in a clash yesterday between its members and an Israeli patrol in the western border strip.

SLA Members Clash With 'Armed Men,' Kill Two

NC1504111891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] According to security sources, South Lebanese Army [SLA] members clashed with a group of armed men in the western sector of the security belt last night, killing two and wounding two others. The sources did not identify the casualties, in whose possession weapons, hand grenades, and a rocket launcher were found.

Yesterday, the Israeli Army killed two armed men in the same area.

TISHRIN Calls for UN Peace Conference

JN1604204091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 15 Apr (SANA)—In today's editorial, TISHRIN deals with the intensive international efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The paper notes that these efforts come in response to the whole international community's desire to implement UN resolutions.

TISHRIN says that the world unanimously agrees that the road to peace begins with the need for complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory, stopping its aggressive and terrorist policy, returning to its expansionist schemes, and recognizing the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine to their land and homeland.

The paper notes that what guarantees the sound implementation of international resolutions on the Middle East crisis is a peace conference under UN auspices and supervision in the presence of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and the concerned parties. Therefore, any talk about an expected peace in the region cannot ignore in any way the UN role, which is an important role that constitutes the international guarantee and the required legitimacy.

TISHRIN adds: Since all agree on the essence, with the exception of Israel, it is very important not to be drowned in terminologies [an la naghraq fi al-tasmiyat]. What is important is that the Israelis should abandon their illusions, false convictions, and schemes to control and usurp [territory].

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria is determined to reach a just and comprehensive peace and to convene a peace conference in which the United Nations has an important role. No one must waste this opportunity.

Compliance With International Legitimacy Viewed

JN1704082091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In the "With the Events" column, and under the headline "Zionism: A Threat to World Security and Peace," AL-BA'TH writes: As it yearns for a new world in which security and stability, justice, equality, and human rights prevail; the international community makes relentless, vigorous efforts to consolidate a new world order where there is no place for aggressive expansion and usurpation. Over the past few years, and as a consequence of East-West detente, humanity has made strides toward the realization of these aspirations: There has been a relaxation of the arms race, a nuclear conflagration has been averted, and work has been invested in the cause of fair solutions and settlements.

The paper stresses that these steps still fall short of the goals sought by the international community, as forces of expansion and aggression refuse to submit to international legitimacy and neutralize most of the accomplishments made thus far. The paper says that as a racist, chauvinist, fascist entity harboring expansionist, provocative designs that yields no ground, clings to the occupied Arab land, and denies the Palestinian people's rights, Israel is the most striking example of these forces. The pressing task now is to rein in Israel's stubbornness and arrogance and to get it to comply with international legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH Says Baker's Tour Made Progress

JN1504163691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 15 Apr (SANA)—AL-BA'TH newspaper believes that some progress was made following U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour, that more efforts should be made to achieve further progress based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338, and that any effort outside that framework will be a waste of time.

In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH says: We, the Arabs should not be too optimistic, because past and present experiences prove that Israel, which was founded on aggressive and expansionist policies, is still pursuing the same policies and that, although it engages in maneuvers from time to time, it still rejects every just solution regardless of all the new circumstances and changes in our contemporary world.

The newspaper adds that the Arabs must focus their efforts seriously on legitimate rights and stand by them in order to have them restored. This, the paper says, should prompt us to cooperate with all international circles that take an interest in establishing a just and lasting peace in the region. To advance our rights, the paper says, we should knock on every door to regain our full rights. If we act correctly, the paper adds, we will achieve what we want.

In conclusion, the paper stresses the need for clear vision at every step to avoid mistakes, especially since the circumstances surrounding the Arabs no longer allow any mistake regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, which should remain the essence of the Arab nation's struggle.

Afghanistan

Hikmatyar Calls For 'Offensive on Kabul'

PM1704084391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Apr 91 p 14

[Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan report: "Hikmatyar Calls for Decisive Offensive on Kabul"]

[Excerpt] Khowst (Afghanistan), Islamabad, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the Afghan Hezb-e Eslami-Gulbuddin—has called for a decisive offensive on the Afghan capital, Kabul, an offensive coordinated among all the mujahidin groups in order to exploit the victory achieved by the mujahidin in Khowst, the mujahidin's high morale, and the Kabul regime's low morale. The Afghan mujahidin leader, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in an exclusive interview from Khowst, added: All the bad propaganda aimed against the mujahidin after the Soviets' withdrawal, alleging that the former were incapable of achieving any military victory, has collapsed. Hikmatyar, who was the only Afghan leader out of the seven leaders to participate in the 17-day offensive against Khowst, added that "an offensive on Gardeyz, capital of Paktia Province, of which Khowst is a directorate, is not as important as an offensive on Kabul. And efforts must be coordinated and a unified and joint offensive must be launched against Kabul so as to preoccupy ourselves with nothing except the capital."

Informed sources in Peshawar in Pakistan say that Hikmatyar has ordered his party members around the capital to prepare for a decisive and swift offensive against the capital. It is known that Hikmatyar has recently formed an army around the Afghan capital called the Army of Sacrifice [jund al-ithar], which will be the spearhead in the upcoming Kabul offensive. But Hikmatyar believes it will be difficult for the mujahidin to utilise the air force in their possession.

Hikmatyar's call for the Kabul offensive comes amid calls from Shaykh Jalaluddin Haqqani, a notable leader in Khowst, for an offensive against Gardeyz and Ghazni. He said in an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We must launch a unified offensive on Ghardeyz and Ghazni before we head for Kabul. Shaykh Haqqani emphasized that once Gardeyz is captured the road will be open for the mujahidin to head for the Afghan capital. But he left the door open for the Kabul offensive option when he said: We must sit and consult and agree over the plan for an offensive. [passage omitted]

Offers Khowst to Interim Government

BK1604100591 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Peshawar, April 15—The chief of Hezb-e-Eslami Afghanistan, Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, has said that his party was ready to hand over the fully intact offices and administrative control of Khowst to such an interim government of the Mujahidin which was ready to work inside Afghanistan, provided that it is fully active and brings forth an elected Shura [consultative Council] by completing the earlier initiated election process.

This, he said in an interview from inside Afghanistan Monday [15 April].

To a question he said that all the offices taken over by Hezb-e- Eslami Afghanistan during the capture of Khowst were fully protected. He proposed that the interim government of Mujahidin should be activated to face the current challenges and move inside Afghanistan so as to turn it into a de facto government.

Commenting on the earlier announced election formula of the AIG [Afghan Interim Government] he said that though he had certain objections over this formula now when the same had undergone a long process it should be completed for bringing forward a somewhat elected Shura. He said that all the organisations of the mujahidin participating in the interim government should take it obligatory upon themselves that they should accept the people's mandate for the future government that comes to power as a result of the elected Shura, will fully cooperate with the election process for its early completion and show full sincerity with the new government and would not resort to negative propaganda against the same or create hurdles before it.

Engineer Hikmatyar said that in the alternative all the leaders of the political parties should come on a table to decide about the future set-up through mutual consultations. He proposed that all the Jehad parties should be categorized according to their strength and effectiveness. He further proposed that representation in the newly emerging government should be given under the same formula to all the Jehad parties.

Rockets Hit Kabul, Gardeyz on 'Id al-Fitr

LD1604171291 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Trampling on all humane and Islamic norms today, while our Muslim and faithful people were celebrating 'Id al-Fitr, warmonger extremists fired into Kabul five ground-to-ground rockets. The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports one of the rockets landed by Idgah Mosque while a number of Kabul residents were returning home after attending 'Id prayers. As a result, one person was martyred and four others were injured. The other four rockets landed in residential areas of Wards 8, 9, and 10 of Kabul where they caused no loss of life or material damage. Today's rockets were fired from the northeast.

Criminal extremists also fired, on the first day of 'Id al-Fitr, rockets into the city of Gardeyz. The BIA military section reports: As a result of this extremist act,

beyond human dignity and respect, two children were martyred and five other compatriots were injured in Gardeyz. Also, two enemy rockets landed at (?Sayd Shah Mansur shrine) and at the city's grand mosque, where they caused damage.

'Eyewitnesses' Recount Attack on Khowst

LD1504190791 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The shameful aggression by Pakistani militarists and extremists' crimes in Khowst city was revealed today at a news conference by eyewitnesses. According to a BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military correspondent, this news conference at Storay Palace of the Foreign Ministry was attended by domestic and foreign journalists and foreign attaches in Kabul. Miras Alam Hamid, and officer of the Armed Forces, and Nazar Muhammad, one of our compatriots, who were in the hands of extremists for some timne in Khowst provinces and have recently arrived in Kabul through hazardous paths, spoke about the shameless aggression of the extremists and regular Pakistani units on Khowst province. They said:

Pakistani militarists, Arab Wahhabis, and extremists launched their first offensive on (Gorboz) area; and then, firing long-range missiles, destroyed the homes of Khowst citizens and martyred a number of children, women, and old men. This attack was repulsed by the Armed Forces unites.

In the course of the second offensive, when there were rainy conditions and the ground for supplying the units in Khowst Province was not suitable, the aggressor succeeded in entering the city of Khowst. With the capture of the city, they embarked on looting and plundering the property and goods of the people and transfered their house furnishings to Miram Shah by vehicles.

Pakistani tanks, artillery, and troops, who were clad in regular Pakistani military uniforms, also entered the city—engaging in destruction, plundering public property, and carrying it to Pakistan.

The eyewitnesses said that during the war thousands of surface-to-surface missiles and artillery shells were fired by Pakistani regular units on residential areas in Khowst, which resulted in the martrydom of children, women, and old men. This has provoked the deep indignation of the peaceful people of Khowst; and tribal units of that province, in cooperation with Armed Forces units, in retaliation inflicted heavy loss of life on the enemy units. This fact has even been revealed by Pakistani sources and international mass media who have published some of these matters.

At the end of the news conference the journalists asked questions, to which necessary answers were given by the eyewitnesses. A number of children of those families, who had been spared from the tragic incident in Khowst, also took part at the news conference.

India

Gandhi Releases Congress-I Election Manifesto

BK1604162491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The Congress-I has pledged to give the highest priority to devolution of power to the people and says it will reintroduce and pass the panchayati raj [rural councils] and nagarpalika [urban council] bills. In its 64-page manifesto released by the party president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi this evening, it promises to arrest the price rise within the first 100 days if voted to power.

The manifesto says the terrorism and secessionism in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and Assam will be dealt with firmly, while efforts will continue for a comprehensive settlement of all outstanding issues.

The party said it will introduce and pass a bill to maintain the status quo as on the 15th of August 1947 in respect of all places of worship. It maintains its stand that the construction of the Ayodhya temple should take place without dismantling the Babri mosque. The Congress-I pledged in the manifesto that it will be the Center's responsibility to protect the constitutional and legal rights of the religious, linguistic, and ethnic minorities. While emphasizing that preference will be given to the poorer sections among the backward classes, the manifesto says the party is committed to ensure the benefits of reservation [of jobs] to other economically backward sections not covered by existing schemes.

Turning to economic policies, the Congress-I says it will maintain a stable tax regime for five years in respect of direct taxes and one year in case of indirect taxes. The party favored a gradual withdrawal of the public sector from areas in which private and joint sectors have developed a capability. It says effective policies will be evolved to check conspicuous consumption and to curb black money. The manifesto promises to restore fiscal balance in the budgetary system by drastically reducing wasteful expenditure and by expanding the revenue base of the government through a more dynamic and profit-oriented public sector.

The Congress-I promises that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission will be given statutory powers. Special courts will be set up to try communal offenses and to protect the interest of the tribal people. The party pledges to initiate programs for the welfare of youth, women and children, ex-servicemen, farmers and laborers.

About freedom of the media, the Congress-I says it will offer to public corporations telecasting and broadcasting rights to function in competition with Prasar Bharati [Broadcasting Corporation of India].

Union Cabinet Approves Law To Protect Police

BK1604162091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The union cabinet has approved a legal provision to protect government officials, particularly police officials engaged in antiterrorist activities in states like Punjab and Assam. A presidential ordinance is to be issued to amend Section 197 of the Criminal Procedure Code to provide that no court shall take cognizance of any offensive alleged to have been committed by a public servant during president's rule in the state while discharging his official duty without the prior permission of the central government. The provision will be applicable both to central government and state government employees.

Forces Kill Two Pakistani 'Terrorists' on Border

BK1704060691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two terrorists were killed by the BSF [Border Security Force] on the India-Pakistan border in Kathua District yesterday. Three of their accomplices ran back into Pakistani territory leaving behind a large quantity of arms and ammunition. According to BSF spokesman the killed terrorists belong to the group of the Pakistan based terrorist, Wasan Singh Zafarwal, and were carrying weapons for terrorist activities in Punjab.

Election Commission, Parties Discuss Poll Issues

BK1604111891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The one-day meeting of political parties convened by the Election Commission in New Delhi today discussed the observance of a model code of conduct during the elections. The meeting was attended by eight national and 40 state-level parties. The meeting also discussed the merits of booth wise and second time counting [of votes] and the timings of polling for next month's elections. All the political parties expressed confidence in the arrangements by the election commission and they assured to cooperate for a free and fair poll. The commission has agreed to supply a certified copy of electoral rolls to all the political parties to ensure that there is no deletion from the list.

Our correspondent understands that the chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, told the meeting that he will be able to give his order soon in cases where he has reserved his judgment. It is also understood that there will be no fresh hearing of disputes between political parties till the elections are over.

Election Commission Rules on Parties' Petitions

BK1604125791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The Election Commission has decided to allow the Bharatiya Janata Party to continue to use the lotus symbol for the coming elections. The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, told newsmen in New Delhi today that he will take up for hearing other issues connected to the case after the elections.

The commission rejected the claim of the Janata Dal-S that it is the real Janata Dal. In an order, the chief election commissioner also turned down the claim of the Janata Dal-S to the election symbol chakra [wheel]. He held that the Janata Dal continues to be recognized as a national party and it is entitled to use its reserved symbol. Mr. Seshan, however, recognized the Janata Dal-S also as a national party. He asked the party to choose any of the three symbols approved by the commission or suggest a new symbol which should not have religious appeal. The commission will hold a hearing before allotting a new symbol to the Janata Dal-S.

Mr. Seshan said that his earlier order recognizing the locus standii of third parties to make complaints will hold good in the case of the complaint by Mr. Sharad Joshi of Shetkari Sangathan against Shiva Sena. He, however, said the question of jurisdiction of the commission to deregister political parties will be taken up for hearing only after the elections are over.

Ramarao Appointed Technology Department Secretary

BK1704103291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The government has announced the appointment of Dr. P. Ramarao, director of Defense Metallurgical Research Laboratory of Defense, Research and Development Organization, as secretary of Department of Science and Technology. He is expected to assume charge next Monday [22 April].

Iran

President To Visit Turkey, Syria, France

TA1604172891 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Western diplomatic sources said in Tehran today that Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will visit Turkey and Syria at the end of this month or at the beginning of next month. Later, he will leave for France on his first visit to the West since assuming the Iranian presidency. The sources added that French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will arrive in Iran on 3 May in a bid to resolve the financial differences between Paris and Tehran in preparation for the Iranian president's visit to France.

Velayati To Visit Saudi Arabia 20 Apr

NC1504094591 Paris AFP in English 0930 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 15 (AFP)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is due to arrive in Saudi Arabia on Saturday for "high-level talks" with his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and others, the TEHRAN TIMES said Monday.

Mr. Velayati and Prince Sa'ud met in Muscat several days before diplomatic relations were resumed between Riyadh and Tehran on March 30.

Ties were cut in April 1988 following violent clashes in Mecca during the July 1987 pilgrimage. Saudi officials said the clashes left 402 pilgrims dead, including 275 Iranians.

Iran has boycotted the last three pilgrimages because of a dispute over how many pilgrims it could send to Saudi Arabia in the wake of the clashes. But Tehran decided last month to lift the boycott now that Iran and Saudi Arabia agree on a quota of 110,000 Iranian pilgrims.

According to the English-language daily, Mr. Velayati will also discuss the situation in Iraq with his Saudi hosts.

Visit Previewed

LD1504095891 Tehran IRNA in English 0847 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Monday commenting on the forthcoming Tehran-Riyadh high-level talks said that bilateral relations, the hajj issue, Iraqi refugees and oil-related matters will be discussed.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is expected in Riyadh next Saturday [20 April] for discussions with high-ranking Saudi officials, the daily's editorial said.

"It is believed that the two sides will do their best to agree to the holding of a peaceful 'Deliverance From Infidels' (rally) during hajj season."

According to the paper, the focus could also be on questions pertaining to oil in the context of recent developments and regional affairs, including the plight of the Iraqi refugees now streaming in across the borders of Iran and Turkey.

"Since Saudi Arabia and Iran both have a pivotal role to play and hold the key to stability and security in this part of the world, there should be no hesitation in discussing such issues of fundamental importance, especially the question of security in the region."

The paper believed that the Saudis need not to be reminded that if the two countries find a way to bring security and stability in the region, then there will be no need for the presence of foreign forces.

"Finally, Tehran will expect a reduction in Saudi oil production in order to bring world prices up at a reasonable level...The issue of reaching a rational benchmark price for oil is one that concerns not only Iran and Saudi Arabia and their economies but also of oil producing countries in the region and the world."

'Immediate' Withdrawal of Iraqi Forces Demanded

LD1604133191 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry lodged a protest with the Iraqi Embassy in Tehran on Monday [15 April] against occupation of a territory in western Iran.

The Foreign Ministry said that following numerous violations of the cease-fire regulations by the Iraqi forces in the past three weeks, on April 14 an Iraqi brigade crossed the international border north of the Bakhtaran Province city of Qasr-e Shirin in Tang Havan region, opposite Tazeh-Abad and occupied an area three kilometers deep inside Iran.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly protesting the hostile move of Iraq demands immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from the Iranian territory and holds the Iraqi Government fully responsible for any casualties and damage and dangerous consequences of this aggressive move," said the Foreign Ministry.

Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi yesterday informed United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar of the latest Iraqi violation and advised the Baghdad regime to find a solution to its internal problems rather than creating an external enemy.

Withdrawal Announced

LD1604162291 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry announced here Tuesday afternoon that the Iraqi forces have withdrawn from the Iranian territory which they had occupied last Sunday.

The Foreign Ministry said "following the ultimatum given by the Islamic Republic Government and lining up of the Armed Forces against the Iraqi troops, finally the Iraqi forces left the Iranian territory and returned behind the international borders."

Iran's Foreign Ministry on Monday lodged a strong protest with the Iraqi Embassy in Tehran against the occupation of the Iranian territory. A similar protest was made by Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi.

An Iraqi brigade crossed the international border north of Qasr-e Shirin in Tang Havan region of Bakhtaran province April 14 and occupied an area three kilometers deep inside Iran.

UN Official Comments on Refugees in Iran

LD1604023291 Tehran IRNA in English 2134 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Ms. Sadako Ogata expressed "shock" here today at the plight of the "largest and fastest growing population of Iraqi refugees in Iran."

After a field trip to the Western border points in Bakhtaran Province—her first ever since assuming the post two months ago—Sadako told a press conference "I was shocked because I have never seen such a great number of people getting out. You talk about mass exodus, I think I saw mass exodus today." She described the influx to Iran of half-starved Iraqis, braving freezing weather and ardous mountain paths to flee Saddam Husayn's reign of terror, as "this great humanitarian tragedy which is unfolding in front of us."

At Paveh, for instance said Sadako she saw on the Iraqi side of the border, "50 kms of people in cars and everything jam-packed." Nevertheless the UNHCR official felt "heartened and inspired" by Iran's management of refugee relief, terming it "phenomenal."

"The Iranian people and government have done a very well organised job within what they could do. Iran has done a lot in a truly humanitarian spirit opening up borders and even doors."

According to the Foreign Ministry, Iran is spending 10 million dollars per day on the 900,000 plus Iraqi refugees, she added. However, the Islamic Republic cannot cope with the situation alone, in view of the growing numbers, said the silver-haired Japanese lady and "it is time for us to really get started. I have seen the new arrivals. Children are malnourished, many do not have adequate blankets. It is very cold out there. Food is in short supply and they require medical care."

On UNHCR relief for the Iraqi refugees in Iran, Sadako said that so far "30 planes have already arrived carrying 20 thousand tents, 170 thousand blankets, although it is a drop in a bucket."

Some 1.6 million blankets and 150 thousand tents and are on the way, while "200 mechanical bakeries are to be established, for preparing traditional breads for the refugees", she added.

Ms Sadako estimated that 16 thousand tons of food will be needed to feed one million refugees each month, and to facilitate the relief operations UNHCR has set up 5 sub-offices in the Iranian border provinces.

On their eventual repatriation to Iraq, she answered: "We have to see how we can expedite their return home, to live in safety and engage in a productive normal life, and we all have to play our parts the way we can in order to help realize their dream."

But she was not sure how soon that will happen, and pointed out that the refugees greeted her with placards reading "Down With Saddam."

When asked about the situation of Iraqi refugees in southern Iran, Sadako, who is leaving Tehran for Turkey on Tuesday, regretted that she could not make the trip to Khuzestan to see the plight of the Iraqi arabs. However, the UN has drawn up plans to help them she said without elaborating.

Even those Iraqis who have fled to the American controlled areas on the Kuwaiti border will be protected, said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Urges Increased Aid

LD1604115591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Ms. Ogata, the UN high commissioner for refugee affairs [UNHCR], who has been in our country on a three-day visit left Tehran today after inspecting the western areas of the country housing Iraqi refugees.

Before her departure, in an interview with our reporter, she praised the self-sacrificing government and people of Iran for their efforts in assisting Iraqi refugees, and expressed satisfaction at the conduct of relief work. She said: During my visit I observed all the efforts of the government and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning setting up camps, and providing food, healthcare, medicine, and other essentials. She added that the best solution to the problem of Iraqi refugees is their honorable return to their own country. Of course, this is also what they themselves want. The UNHCR will work toward this objective with the help of other countries, including Iran.

Referring to international aid to the refugees, she described this aid as negligible considering the enormous needs of the refugees. She said: I saw the situation as being very critical and urgent. International resources have to be mobilized to eliminate the countless difficulties facing the Iraqi refugees, and to assist Iran in administering the refugees' affairs.

300,000 Refugees Reported in Piranshahr

LD1604170191 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Piranshahr, W. Azarbaijan Prov., April 16, IRNA—Since the influx of Iraqi refugees started two weeks ago, more than 300,000 Iraqi refugees have arrived in this small western border city by 15,000 cars, a local official told IRNA here Tuesday morning.

IRNA reporters quoting the disciplinary forces commander of the region, added that the refugees continue to stream towards Piranshahr and at present there is a 31-kilometer long queue of automobiles on the other side of Piranshahr waiting to enter Iran.

Everyday 1,000 cars arrive in Piranshahr overcrowded by the refugees who are fleeing the atrocities of the Iraqi regime in one of the unprecedented exodus of the century.

The huge number of the refugees and the limited local facilities have created major problems for the city and the city drug stores are packed with the ill refugees.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Kurdish populated city of Irbil was attacked by cluster bombs on Monday and the sound of explosions caused were heard here.

Following the partial control of the Iraqi Government forces over Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah, the Diana road has been sealed off to the refugees. [passage omitted]

Border Crossing Reopened to Iraqi Refugees

LD1604153391 Tehran IRNA in English 1356 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Bakhtaran Prov., April 16, IRNA—The 'Tileh Kouh' border crossing in this provincial city has been reopened to the influx of the Iraqi refugees since Monday night.

Some 100,000 Iraqi refugees have arrived in the area after a long march on the rugged mountains in freezing temperature, awaiting permission to cross into Iran.

The Tileh Kouh border crossing was sealed off for the past two days following the attacks of the Iraqi Ba'thist forces which killed and injured a number of refugees.

An estimated 100,000 Iraqi refugees have fled to Iran through the Tileh Kouh border crossing before it was closed down.

Commentary on Turkish Stand on Iraqi Refugees

NC1704074991 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary: "Turkey's Approach on the Question of Iraqi Refugees"]

[Excerpts] The Iraqi people continue their flight from the Saddam regime and are seeking shelter in neighboring countries. Many of them are camped along the Turkish border in the hope that they will receive protection. It has been reported, however, that the refugees are instead receiving harsh treatment from Turkey. Reports indicate that Turkish troops do not hesitate to fire on the Iraqi refugees or to beat them. [passage omitted]

President Turgut Ozal has called for international aid for the refugees, claiming that it is the United Nations that is directly responsible for meeting their needs. Earlier, however, Ozal had said that the Iraqi refugees should be resettled within Iraq. In fact, he called for UN forces to be deployed in Kurdish areas. Recently, however, he said that the Turkish Government does not want camps similar to those of the Palestinians to be established for the Kurds on the Turkish-Iraqi border. Ozal explained his view by saying that terrorism and instability will increase in the region if refugee camps are set up. Despite this change of attitude, Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar has revealed that Turkish troops crossed the Iraqi border to provide security for the Iraqi refugees. How can Turkish officials explain the disparity between reports that Turkish troops opened fire on the Iraqis who rebelled against Saddam Husayn and the announcement that Turkish troops are advancing inside Iraq to provide security for the Iraqi refugees, the very people who are reported to have been harshly treated by Turkey in the first place?

At this critical time, the governments and peoples of the region must show greater care in assessing the developments.

Editorial Equates 'Crimes' of U.S., Saddam

NC1604103191 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Apr 91 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. Crimes Equal to Saddam's"]

[Text] Latest reports say that the number of Iraqi refugees gathering at Iranian borders to escape the genocide in Ba'thist Iraq has exceeded the 500,000 mark, and the number continues to increase every minute.

The leader of the country, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, has given orders to representatives calling on them to speed up the massing of help to these helpless victims who face the danger of imminent death from starvation and the harshness of their conditions.

In an interview with the Islamic Republic Radio, Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri-Hoseyanbadi discussed the depths of the crimes of the Ba'thist regime, saying that many Iraqi refugees, while passing through stormy rivers and dangerous mine-fields, had lost their lives. He said that the number of those who have lost their lives, while forced into migration, is already very high and there was the need to awaken action on all people.

The bloody-thirsty Iraqi regime, in the aftermath of a humiliating defeat by the allied forces, thinks of nothing but revenge to recover its losses, even at the expense of the Iraqi Muslim people whom it heartlessly kills. Embarrassed in the pages of Arab history after foolishly leading its country into a futile war and a shameful defeat, it now drives its nation out of its cities and considers it a victory against "rebellion"! After regaining virtual control of all cities taken by the popular forces, it calls in reporters to witness how the cities were taken back! But, can the taking back of cities with the use of helicopter gunships and Scud missiles against civilians ever be called a victory?

Recent events also give light to the crimes perpetrated by the U.S. and its allies. Through sheer force of numbers and technology, they scored victory in the recent war over the Iraqi regime and forced it to capitulate and accept humbling terms for a permanent ceasefire. They then openly encouraged the disgusted mass of Iraqi people to rise up against their ruler in the aim for a democratic government.

During this time, when millions of Iraqis took up their call and sacrificed their lives, the so-called "policemen" of democracy stood aside and watched, preferring a weakened Saddam to a new ruler whom they couldn't trust. Not only did they not sympathize with the Iraqi stragglers, they also left the Iraqi dictator free to perform whatever crimes he desired to perpetuate himself in power.

Now that the terms for a permanent ceasefire has been spelled out, the U.S. has announced its readiness to move out of the south of Iraq, satisfied that Iraq will some day pay for reparations on the damages it has caused but silent as to damage and loss of lives inflicted on the poor Iraqi people. [sentence as published]

The world is filled with stories of crimes committed by so-called civilized countries who supposedly call for human rights but are actually oblivious to the sufferings of the oppressed peoples of the world. They sound out empty slogans calling for action in the midst of suffering and oppression but themselves are guilty by virtue of their inaction. Let it be clear that crimes of "inaction" are just as condemnable as crimes of "action" and in this regard, the U.S. and its allies stand on the same footing with the dictator Saddam.

Editorial on Iraqi Ties With Mojahedin-e Khalq

NC1504123691 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Apr 91 pp 2,9

[Editorial: "MKO Venture to Divert Global Attention from Iraqi Atrocities"]

[Text] One more black page in the terrorist history of the so-called Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] has been added on Monday when they tried to cross the Iranian border on orders of their master and with nefarious objectives.

The Mohjahedin, popularly known in Iran as Monafeqin or "hypocrites" because of the very nature of their terrorist activities, tried in vain to infiltrate Iranian territory on the order of their master, Iraqi President Saddam.

President Saddam, notorious for using weapons of mass destruction, is the same person who imposed the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq, causing heavy life and property losses on both sides. When, in a dramatic way he declared his acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 in 1988 and then bowed before all Iranian terms and conditions for peace, his defeat was only made obvious before the entire world.

The peace process between the two countries was underway when the Iraqi regime attacked his tiny neighbor Kuwait on August 2 and finally annexed the shaykhdom despite world-wide protest.

President Saddam then gave his Western masters the pretext to come to the region along with their sophisticated weapons. Iranian officials, along with other peace-loving leaders, tried to convince him to withdraw his forces, but as history now relates he has never listened to the voice of reason like many despotic rulers before him.

When the allied forces started attacking occupied Kuwait and Iraq, the same dictator boasted that the "Mother of all Battles" had started. In just 100 days he suffered the worst humiliating defeat and gave another excuse for the imperialists to establish permanent bases in the region. Now he is battling popular forces seeking to oust and is suffering the "Mother of all Humiliations".

It is quite natural that common Iraqi people should react against the squandering destruction caused to their country. But as usual for dictators, he used all weapons in his command to crush the mass movement for a popular government.

The allied forces, especially those from the United States who are calling for the ouster of the Iraqi dictator, view with silence all the atrocities being carried out by the unpopular regime in Baghdad.

Ever since the start of the crisis, the Iraqi regime tried to involve Iran in the conflict, but Iran held to its neutral policy and received worldwide praise for following such a path.

The Iraqi dictator could not discredit the "good name" of Iran on the global stage and is now trying to blame the Islamic Republic along with Syria for the internal turmoil inside the country, despite repeated declarations by Iran that it has no such involvement and that the fate of Iraq should rest with its people.

Now that the Iraqi regime has failed in its "impossible mission" to involve Iran, then it used its "most obedient" servants—the Monafeqin—whose infiltration is nothing but a gimmick to divert world public opinion from the heinous crimes committed by the Ba'thist regime against its own innocent people.

The infiltration has been crushed and several Monafeqin killed and arrested. The fresh plot of the Iraqi regime has been defeated.

In this test, the security forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran is commendable and their alertness deserve three cheers from the nation.

Commentary Criticizes Turkey's Ties With Israel

NC1204130291 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary: "Turgut Ozal's Meeting With Shim'on Peres"]

[Text] President Turgut Ozal held a meeting with Shim'on Peres, leader of the Labor Party in Zionist Israel, during a conference that was held in [word indistinct]. Meanwhile, (?Turgut Ozal) addressed the conference and proposed that a pipeline be laid from Turkey to the Persian Gulf region in order to meet the region's need for drinking water. According to Ozal, in addition to Jordan and Syria, the project could meet the water needs of 15,000 or 20,000 people in the Arab states in the Persian Gulf.

Ozal disclosed that he and Peres discussed Israel's participation in the project during the meeting.

In view of the existing conditions in the region, it is not difficult to predict that Turkey's contacts with the Zionist Israeli regime will cause a reaction from the people of the Islamic and regional countries. This is because Turkey's initiative can be described as a step toward providing stability for Israel in the region and toward having that country recognized by other countries. The anti-Zionist struggle in the occupied lands is still continuing. According to political observers, Turkey's move, on one hand, to maintain good economic and political relations with the Islamic countries in the region and, on the other, to establish multi-sided contacts with the Zionist Israeli regime, cannot be accepted. The Muslim people in the region, who have played a major role in the incidents and developments in the Middle East, cannot remain indifferent toward an effort made by an Islamic country to establish relations with the Zionist Israeli regime, which is occupying Jerusalem.

An assessment of the incidents in Turkey will reveal that the Israeli regime, which is occupying Jerusalem, is resorting to every kind of deceitful activity and intrigue to establish relations with Ankara with the help of the United States. The United States and Israel are trying to benefit from Turkey's strategic position as much as possible. Meanwhile, Turkey's inclination to change its impartial stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict in favor of Israel has created a serious threat. The critics of Turkey's foreign policy do not believe that Ankara will succeed in safeguarding its esteem in the Middle East by adopting an insincere policy vis-a-vis the regional problems and the Arab peoples.

Turkey's conflicting policy of pursuing closer links with Israel in every domain, while maintaining its relations with the Islamic countries in the region to secure additional economic benefits, is prompted by the illogical position the Turkish officials hold against the Islamic movements both in and outside Turkey. Meanwhile, the Zionist Israeli regime, which is regarded as a parasite, aggressive, and usurpationist country in the region, is making an effort to establish relations with a number of countries like Turkey in the Middle East to rid itself from isolation and be recognized as an existing entity. In fact, in his book entitled *The Voice of Israel,* Abba Eban, a former Israeli prime minister, claimed that the establishment of political relations between Israel and Turkey confirms that Israel is a reality in the Middle East.

The safeguarding of the common interests of the United States and Israel by Turkey is one of the most important plans Israel has drawn up for Turkey. Obviously, this fact cannot be ignored by the Turkish officials.

Japanese Official Meets Habibi, Velayati

LD1604051291 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1700 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Nobuo Natsunaga, the top advisor of Japan's foreign minister, met the first vice president, Mr. Habibi today, and stressed the need for expansion of political, cultural and economic ties between the two countries. While appreciating the logical stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) during the Persian Gulf crisis, he praised Iran's role in ending the regional disputes.

Mr. Natsunaga, referring to the IRI's capabilities as the biggest power in the Perisan Gulf region, expressed the hope that Iran would play the most crucial role in maintaining security in the Persian Gulf. He also thanked the IRI for its humanitiarian measures in accepting hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees, and expressed the hope that international forums would make greater efforts to assist Iraqi refugees.

Afterwards, the first vice president, Mr. Habibi, referring to relations between Iran and Japan, and in view of the new economic policies, the five-year plan and the reconstruction period, reiterated the need for the expansion and further strengthening of bilateral relations.

On the region's situation, Mr. Habibi said the ruthless methods employed by the Iraqi regime, its expansionist policies, and its refusal to respect the international, principled, and humanitarian regulations led to the destruction of the Muslim nation of Iran. [sentence as heard] Unfortunately the United Nations and other international forums are not showing the slightest gesture of sensitivity.

About the region's security, Mr. Habibi said without the IRI's presence the security system of the Persian Gulf region, the Sea of Oman, and even the Indian Ocean cannot be established. Of course, the 13-year history of our revolution has shown that we are capable of maintaining our own security. The declaration of the stances on the IRI's role in regional security is, in fact, aimed at assisting other countries of the region.

[Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1600 GMT on 15 April adds: "The Japanese foreign minister's senior aide, Mr. Natusunaga, currently in Tehran, held a session with Foreign Minister Velayati

this morning. Bilateral ties, the Persian Gulf crisis and its effects on the regional states and Iran's national position regarding the crisis and international relief aid to the Iraqi refugees were the main topics of discusisons."]

[Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1630 GMT on 15 April adds: "Mr. Natsunaga, the Japanese foreign ministry senior advisor, this afternoon also met Mr. Nurbakhsh, minister of economic affairs and finance. At this meeting the two sides discussed trade relations between the two countries and emphasized the need to expand these relations."]

Editorial Criticizes Algerian Scholar's Remarks

NC1604120791 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 6 Apr 91 p 2

[Editorial: "A Surprise From Algeria—Better Ignored Than Fostered"]

[Text] The biggest surprises come from a so-called 'Alim of Algeria these days who has become the victim of distortion of the facts inside Iraq where the common people are fighting against a despotic regime which has oppressed that nation for the last 22 years.

We know that there still are people whose minds have to be cleared of the fact that the Iraqi regime headed by Saddam has got nothing to do with Islam and that that regime has no other plan except the expansion of that country's despotic rule.

The attack on a small neighbor was nothing but a desire of being the master of the region and there was no question of Shiite or Sunni. The current uprising in Iraq is the result of the worst of humiliations suffered by the people of that country. The Iraqis now have the worst and the most difficult life only because of the stupidity of President Saddam.

If we take just a glance at the population of Iraq and observe the uprisings of the people we can easily realize that there was not a single city or town in Iraq where the people did not stand against the despotic regime. They included both Sunnis and Shiites. The northeast of Iraq witnessed the bloodiest of clashes between freedom-loving Kurds, who are mostly Sunnis, with the brutal forces loyal to Saddam. In the center where Sunni Arabs are in a majority here too also the people stood and faced up to the atrocities of Saddam's regime.

The same history was repeated in the south where Shiites are in an overwhelming majority and who suffered most during the last 22 years of Ba'thist rule.

It was really shocking, but not surprising, that 'Ali Bilhaj, a so-called Algerian 'Alim in his recent statement showed his deep-rooted revenge against the Shiites who are followers of the Holy Prophet's Household.

Shocking indeed this statement is because Bilhaj libeled the popular Iraqi uprising as one of Shiites have stood against Islam and Sunnis. It is matter of sorrow that Bilhaj considers the popular Iraqi uprising as one of Shiites against Islam and Sunnis. He considers Ba'thist regime of Iraq as Islamic Sunni government! He ignores the plight of the Kurds who in their millions are facing the worst of times in their history. They along with other Shiites and Sunnis face up to a living death in snow-covered mountains.

We are not surprised by the statement of Bilhaj as he has a history of anti-Shiite activities in the past. How can Bilhaj say that the popular uprising in Iraq is against Islam or Sunni? Does he really believe that Saddam is a real Muslim? Did he study manifesto of the Ba'thist Party of which Saddam is head?

Such irresponsible and baseless statements of Bilhaj is a plot which aims to mar the unity among Muslim Ummah, one that has been achieved during the last 12 years after the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We hope that the statements of 'Ali Bilhaj will slip into history of the past without notice by the Muslim Ummah.

Muslim Role in Upcoming Indian Elections Viewed

NC1504071791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Excerpts] In the wake of India's parliamentary election campaigns, the chairman of India's election committee has announced that general elections for the 10th National Assembly are to be held on 30 Ordibehesht [20 May]. Elections for local parliaments in five states and in another territory under central government administration will be held at the same time. [passage omitted]

The Muslim population, numbering almost 150 million, has a very significant role in these elections. A number of Muslim organizations in India recently announced that they intend to unite and form a vast front known as the Minority Front in order to participate in the mid-term elections.

(Soltan Salahoddin 'Oveysi), one of the Muslim MP's [member of parliament] and the chairman of Babri Mosque's all-India executive committee, was interviewed by a Central News Unit correspondent about the domestic situation in India and the Muslim role in the upcoming mid-term elections. The MP said that it is highly possible that Indian Muslims will vote for the Janata Dal Party due to the policy and stance of V.P. Singh, leader of the party and former Indian prime minister, on the Babri Mosque problem and his efforts to support Muslim demands. He added that if Indian

Muslims adopt a unified stance they can play a significant role in the formation of the future government.

At any rate, the formation of the Minority Front has been seen as a significant development among India's religious and political circles. Political observers believe that the Congress Party will win the upcoming elections due to recent developments in this vast country and the failure of the two previous leftist governments of V.P. Singh and Chandra Shikar.

Tehran Paper Questions Release of Roger Cooper

NC1304124291 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Apr 91 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Release of Roger Cooper—in a Haze of Ambiguity!"]

[Excerpts] The Judiciary's Public Relations Department issued a terse statement announcing: "On Tuesday morning, Mr, Roger Cooper was released after completing the duration of his sentence and was immediately sent out of Iran!"

This piece of news, without any further explanation on the release of Roger Cooper, the seasoned British spy, generated a wave of astonishment and disbelief in Tehran. Cooper, who knows seven living languages and is well acquainted with the history of Iran and Islam, has been engaged in covert espionage actions against the people of Iran to the benefit of the colonialist policies of Britain for the past 20 years. In the course of this time, he was in constant contact with the British Embassy intelligence officials under the cover of his job as a translator and businessman. In addition to introducing people to these intelligence officers, he also gave his information to them. [passage omitted]

In spite of this state of affairs, the report on the release of Roger Cooper, a criminal who has not the slightest doubt of his crimes, was disseminated yesterday. The judicial apparatus obviously has reason for its action and this is not being questioned here. The question is: Why does the judiciary not inform the people of these issues and the way the Islamic Revolution makes decisions and takes actions? The points which are at present swathed in ambiguity, would only spawn rumors and benefit those with ulterior motives.

Did the judicial apparatus impeach Roger Cooper or not? If it did, what was the term of his sentence? Was he released at the end of his prison term or earlier? If he was released earlier, were there any benefits envisaged for the Islamic Republic of Iran? If he had not been tried, what were the gains of his release?

These questions are not designed to query the actions of the judiciary, as it is possible that it has some convincing reasons for its actions. These questions are meant as criticism of the judiciary for failing to provide the necessary clarifications and explanations. The judicial officials should know that the people will look to them for explanations of every action they take, and if these explanations are convincing the people will not pay heed to rumors or propaganda.

Therefore, in view of the British colonial avarice in this country, why was an important issue such as the release of a seasoned British spy confined to a two-sentence announcement? Why were adequate explanations not given to the people who have sacrificed their all for the revolution?

The fact is that it is not too late even now. The judiciary can present their explanations by first answering the people's questions. Secondly, they can thwart those with their own axes to grind.

University Group Condemns Release

NC1704103491 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 6 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] The Union of Islamic Councils of University Students (the Unity Consolidation Office) has issued a statement in response to the release of British spy Roger Cooper.

The statement says: Cooper's detention had long been the major obstacle to the improvement of political relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the British Government, and the British Government had set the release of this so-called British businessman as one of its main conditions for improving its relations with Iran. Thus the Iranian Government was being pressured from the beginning and the reestablishment of relations with Britain was made contingent on Roger Cooper's release. We were startled to learn that one of the country's Foreign Ministry officials (Dr. Larijani) had predicted that Cooper's release was imminent only a few days before it took place.

The statement goes on to point out: In today's treacherous world, any retreat from the positions of the revolution out of a desire for further international integration and to overcome the obstacles to the country's development, is a delusion and an empty and meaningless hope. In a world of vanity and barbarianism, even one step back from our original position will be followed by an attack from the enemy. We had already tasted the bitter fruits of reestablishing our relations with Britain once before. Why should we today witness our country's foreign minister going yet another step farther and making the rectification of political relations between the two governments contingent on the release of British hostages in Lebanon?

The statement continues: Truly, why should we—who felt such pride five years ago when we heard the news of Roger Cooper's arrest and when we saw his televised confession—today learn of his release in a very brief statement published alongside the most insignificant news items, without receiving any justification or convincing legal explanation for this move?

The statement adds: We also believe it is necessary to warn against the conspicuous attempts to first erode and then eliminate the important factor known as "the people and public opinion" on problems concerning society and the revolution. As his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, and the esteemed leader repeatedly stated, the system and the various institutions derive their strength from the Islamic ummah, and the people's role in determining and endorsing the stances of the revolution is of the utmost importance. Unfortunately, however, a poisonous movement that seeks to obliterate this important and basic pillar is taking shape today. This movement sees public opinion as something that can be changed through psychological pressure, not as an element with its own impetus and constructive characteristics.

This statement points out: The issue is not that the original stances of the revolution are being undermined. The main issue is that today there is a lack of basic understanding about the various problems facing the revolution in the minds and spirits of the children of the revolution. Our discussion today is not only about why the Iranian Government should establish diplomatic relations with Britain and release its veteran spy at a time when the fascist British Government insists on supporting the accursed Salman Rushdie. Our major concern today is not only why Islamic Iran agreed to the disarmament of the Hizballah in Lebanon within the framework of the al-Ta'if plan. Our major concern today is not only why Islamic Iran should reestablish relations with Saudi Arabia, the most reactionary regime in the region which bears responsibility for the massacre of the pilgrims to the house of God and is the military base of arrogance; and with Egypt, the disgraced regime of Camp David. The main point we want to make today is to ask why the officials concerned make no effort to explain adequately such major moves to society and why they limit themselves to news headlines and brief statements of only a few lines?

Khamene'i Addresses Law Enforcement Officers

LD1604143691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the Armed forces, to a meeting of law enforcement forces commanders in Tehran on 16 April—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I congratulate all the dear people of Iran and the world's Muslims and especially you dear brothers of the law enforcement forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of the happy 'Id al-Fitr. God willing, the 'Id will bring blessings and the start of a blessed phase for our military and security forces.

Concerning the law enforcement [niru-ye entezami] [LEF], all the tasks, that is decisionmaking, and especially the speedy, intensive, accurate, and efficient process of implementation, have been carried out, thanks be to God. What remains is for this unified LEF to prove its capability and efficiency in practice. Security [amniyat] is a fundamental and important issue. Social order is a question of first class importance. The excellence of the competence of every society matches the degree of its social order and discipline. If there is no order or a lack of it, competence suffers. The LEF should enforce order and security in accordance with the duties prescribed to it by the law, all over the country, especially in the border regions, and in particular, in some regions where lawless elements sometimes disrupt order and security. This is an essential point and the first one. You should prove that the LEF of the Islamic Republic of Iran has this quality and competence to carry the trust that is placed on its shoulders.

The other important point without which that first objective cannot be realized is the extension of the spirit of faith and piety within yourselves, in all the ranks. All of us have lived for many long years in this country; we—both you and I—are familiar with the culture and history and know about the people's impressions. We know that if there was in the past an active, devout, and decent commander in a corner of the country, people in that region were pleased with the LEF under the command of that person and even liked the LEF there. On the contrary, wherever there was a commander who was wavering in his faith and had other negative characteristics, which we do not need to list here, people in that district and region would complain about that particular LEF. This applies to the years before the revolution.

Now that, God be thanked, the state's law enforcement orgnaization [tashkilat-e entezami-ye keshvar] has reached maturity with the creation of this current unified force, you should endeavor to extend and propagate this faith, this purity, generousity, and nobility in the face of the lives, possessions, and honor of the people and achieve contentment through faith. Wherever you see the contrary, the officials of the force should confront it without hesitation. Of course the role played by the ideological-political [unit] in spreading this spirit, this feeling and faith, should, God willing, be substantial.

We hope that our dear brother clerics will succeed in carrying out this duty in the best possible manner and that we may be able to see the force in the light of its worthiness in a not too distant future. I will stop here and hope that the dear brothers, wherever they are, will be blessed with heavenly grace and the respected interior minister who has just worked hard, should continue to pay attention to the main problems of this force so that this force may acquire its proper and deserving status.

May God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Forces

LD1604120791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] On the auspicious occasion of the 'Id al-Fitr, Mr. Nuri-Hoseynabadi, the interior minister, accompanied by Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani, General Sohrabi, the regional and district commanders, the heads of the ideological-political organizations, and the commanders of the intelligence unit of the law enforcement [forces], were received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. In this meeting, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his felcitations on the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr, explained the reasons for and the peculiarities of the project of the merger of the country's law enforcement forces, and enumerated some of the problems and drawbacks involved in the multiplicity of those forces.

He further remarked on the decisiveness of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God's peace be upon him, and that eminence's emphasis on the need to unite the entire law enforement forces. He added: the great leader's views in respect of the project of the merger of these forces were positive, and he graciously supported it. Praising the efforts of the entire law enforement forces in the past in particular throughout the period of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war in terms of establishing security throughout the country, the president urged all the commanders of the force to maintain unity, self-sacrifice, and devotion.

He also described the duties of the clerics and the officials of the ideological-political organization of the law enforcement forces as extremely serious and sensitive. He called on them to play their role in the successful realization of the merger of these forces, diligently and to the best of their ability.

Elsewhere in his speech, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani condemned the massacre of the Muslim and defenseless Iraqi people by the Ba'thist regime of that country. He advised that country's government to adopt a concilitory approach toward the people of that country, and to respect their wishes. On the Persian Gulf crisis, and the stance adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in terms of that crisis, the president said: Our stance was adopted on the basis of our Islamic responsibilities and not on the basis of political opportunism. At present in the wake of the crisis there is no face more human in the world than that of Islamic Iran in connection with helping the Iraqi refugees. He added: Today, too, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fulfilling its Islamic and humanitarian responsibility with regard to the Iraqi Kurdish refugees, in spite of all its domestic problems. Their [Kurdish refugees] acceptance [by Iran] has been purely for humantiarian motives and to please God. We thank the people of our country for their devotion and self-sacrifice in helping the Iraqi refugee sisters and brothers.

Mr/ Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Today, the eyes of all political analysts in the world is focused on Islamic Iran, and now—contrary to the past when not only did they ignore Iran's justified stance, but they also brought Iran under condemnation—they praise the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in terms of helping the Iraqi refugees and its Islamic and humanitarian stance.

It should be mentioned that in today's meeting, Mr. Nuri-Hoseynabadi, the interior minister submitted a brief report to the president on the developments in the project of the merger of the law enforcement forces.

Interior Minister Addresses Seminar

LD1504135191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The seminar of commanders, heads of the ideological-political departments and district and regional counterintelligence commanders of the law enforcement forces [niruha-ye entezami], convened this morning. According to our reporter, Mr. Nuri-Hoseynabadi, interior minister and acting commander-in-chief of the law enforcement forces described how the law amalgamating the law enforcement forces was passed. He said: The Interior Ministry has been responsible for preparing the project for the organization of the [unified] law enforcement forces and for attending to the bill on the administrative employment of that force.

Mr. Nuri-Hoseynabadi also expressed the hope that with the unification of the law enforcement forces that has taken shape in the Islamic revolution, the [unified] law enforcement forces can better serve the revolution. Mr. Nuri-Hoseynabadi concluded by calling on the forces to show greater adherence to the chain of command, observe discipline, and be broad-minded and alert in carrying out missions. He recounted the sensitive role of the heads of the ideologico- political departments and counterintelligence commanders of that force.

At the end of this seminar the emblem of the law enforcement forces, which has a prayer-niche; the emblem of the Islamic Republic of Iran with a sword, scale; and the name of the law enforcement forces [niru-ye entezami] drawn on it, was unveiled.

Majles Speaker Discusses Iran's IMF Quota

LD1504124591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Repubic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The bill for increasing the Islamic Republic of Iran's quota in the IMF was approved in today's Majles session. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] At this morning's open Majles session, Mr. Karrubi, the Majles speaker, delivered a speech in which he conveyed his greetings for the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr to the Muslims of the world and especially to Muslim compatriots, and said: The auspicious 'Id al-Fitr is approaching in circumstances in which the blood of Palestinian Muslims continues to be

spilled every day, 3 million Afghans are refugees, the people of Kashmir are being martyred, Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] is under the control of the enemies of Islam, and the Iraqi nation is being massacred through the conspiracy of arrogance and at the hands of the Ba'thist regime.

He continued by expressing the hope that international organizations will act as soon as possible to return Iraqi refugees to their homes. Mr. Karrubi also called on the world's Muslims to defend their rights in a coordinated manner, with unity and solidarity, and with correct and fundamental programs based on the spirit of Islam. He also called on the leaders of the world of Islam to stand up to conspiracies by gaining the necessary knowledge and to drive foreigners away from their lands. The Majles speaker ended by conveying his greetings to the commander in chief and the Armed forces for the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army Day [18 April] and stressed the need for strengthening the country's defense foundation.

The session continued with a discussion of the bill for increasing the Islamic Republic of Iran's quote in the IMF. The bill had a single urgency and it was approved by the deputies. The bill's single article states: The Islamic Republic of Iran's Central Bank is authorized to increase the Islamic Republic of Iran's quota in the IMF from 660 million units of special drawing rights [SDR's] to 1.0785 billion units of SDR's. The bank is also authorized to act toward improving and increasing the quota in the Fund's seventh and eighth terms.

During the session, there was also a continuation of the discussion of the bill on the employment regulations of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps; Articles 150 to 183 were approved by the deputies. At the end of the session, a number of deputies called for the questioning of Mr. Najafi, the minister of education.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia

BK1404153791 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Lahore, April 13—Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif arrived here at midnight from Jeddah after performing Umra [minor pilgrimage].

He had gone to Saudi Arabia on April 11, along with the members of his family, some members of the Federal Cabinet and other prominent personalities.

Saudi Support Lauded

BK1504120191 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 15 Apr 91 p 4

[Editorial: "A Close Equation"]

[Text] According to report, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia has assured Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of full Saudi support in his efforts to transform Pakistan into an Islamic welfare state. This assurance was given during talks held after a reception hosted by the Saudi monarch in honor of the Pakistan Prime Minister who is [as published] currently on a private visit to the kingdom for performing Umra [minor pilgrimage]. King Fahd expressed happiness over Mr. Nawaz Sharif's recently announced revolutionary steps for enforcement of Shariah in Pakistan. Earlier, the Prime Minister explained to the Saudi King the salient features of his Islamisation Programme. He also apprised the king of the love and affection the people of Pakistan have for the safety and protection of the holy land. In his reply, the Saudi monarch made a special reference to the vital role Pakistan had played during the Gulf crisis and said that the people of Saudi Arabia will remember this "dynamic and bold" attitude for ending the Gulf war and restoration of Saudi and Kuwaiti "pride and honour". King Fahd assured Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of his country's all-out assistance to Pakistan its "development and speedy economic recovery" from the adverse effects of the Gulf crisis.

King Fahd's appreciation of the Islamisation measures announced by the government of Mian Nawaz Sharif shows the good reception these steps have received in the Islamic world. Pakistan, being a state whose very genesis of creation is embedded in the Islamic ideology, has thus been further endeared to the Muslim countries, effecting in the process closer ideological cohesion and unity in the Islamic world. King Fahd, as custodian of Harmain Sharifain [the two holy places], is a symbol of that unity. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was an attack on the unity of the world of Islam. Pakistan is proud of its sons who went to defend the holy land at the call of King Fahd.

The close ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are reflected in the growing volume of economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

It is indeed a measure of the Saudi love and consideration for the welfare of Pakistan that in view of the adverse economic impact of Gulf war on the Pakistan economy, Riyadh sanctioned a daily grant of 50,000 barrels of oil to Islamabad for three months and expressed its explicit wish to further develop trade ties between the two countries. Pakistan's trade with Riyadh has in the last two decades shown an upward trend. For instance, its exports of Rs. [Rupees] 397 million and imports of Rs. 893 million in 1973-74 went up to Rs. 1,743 million and Rs. 6,869 million respectively in 1980-81. In 1986-87, Pak exports to Saudi Arabia were valued at Rs. 4,510 million and imports at Rs 4,920 million. A landmark in Pak-Saudi economic relations was the establishment of the Saudi-Pak Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company with an authorised capital of one billion rupees. Viewed in the light of facts quoted above, the appreciation expressed by King Fahd for the Islamisation programme of the present government and his promise of aid for economic recovery augur well for the future of Pakistan-Saudi relations.

Arms Worth 600 Million Rupees Exported This Year

BK1504124291 Lahore THE NATION in English 15 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan Ordnance Factories [POF] exported arms worth Rs [rupees] 600 million this year while it has received further orders of arms worth Rs 900 million.

This was disclosed by Chairman, POF Board, Lt. Gen. Sabeeh Qamaruz Zaman while addressing a ceremony on Sunday [14 April]. He said that POF was a sensitive institution which was playing an important role in defence production. He said that on account of cooperation between the management and workers, the defence production was considerably increased.

He said that defence production was increased by 40 percent during the last two years. Similarly no technology was purchased in the last four years while arms worth Rs 600 million were exported.

Lt. Gen. Sabeeh Qamaruz Zaman maintained that POF had recently provided the Pakistan Army with new weapons. He said that the production of arms was being increased in accordance with the future requirements of the Army.

It is learnt that Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif will visit POF shortly. It will be his first visit to this institution after becoming Prime Minister.

He will be given invitation by Chaudhary Nisar Ali, MNA [member of National Assembly] of this area on behalf of POF management and workers.

This was said by Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan at the ceremony. He said that Prime Minister was very much interested in this institution and he expressed satisfaction on the settlement of old dispute between POF management and workers.

Investigation of Singapore Plane Hijack Complete

BK1404154791 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Apr 91 p 16

[Text] Islamabad, April 13—Director-General [DG] Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Mr Wajahat Latif, has presented the report of the hijacking of Singapore airline to Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif.

According to informed sources, the DG, who has just come back from Singapore after completing the investigations, has informed the Prime Minister that it has not been established, prima facie, that any political party or group was involved in the hijacking.

One of the directors of the FIA has, however, stayed back in Singapore to collect more facts.

Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif has appointed a ministerial committee headed by Interior Minister, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain immediatly after the hijacking to probe the matter and report within one week. However, over two weeks have passed, and no report has yet been formulated. As a matter of fact, no single meeting of the committtee has been held to investigate the hijacking.

Sri Lanka

Army Destroys Rebel Convoy, Kills 20 'Terrorists'

BK1704095491 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0659 GMT 17 Apr 91

["LANKAPUVATH-OANA pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Apr 17 (LANKAPUVATH)—Air force helicopters and armoured cars of the army's crack armoured corps, in a well co-ordinated operation at Periyakulam in Vavuniya, attacked and destroyed a convoy of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorist trucks transporting terrorists Tuesday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH about 20 terrorists riding in the vehicles were believed killed. The curfews in the districts of Mannar and Killinochchi continue. Official sources said that while the security forces continued to penetrate deeper into LTTE-held territory in Mannar and Vavuniya, several operations against the LTTE were on in the east.

Meanwhile, official sources said it had now been confirmed that eight LTTE military wing leaders were killed, along with 61 other terrorists, in operation Royal Flush at Thoppigala last week. They are Vasuntha, Shanker, Amuthan, Indaraj, Romesh, Suhanthan, Mawi, and Papa.

Army Commander Details LTTE Setbacks

BK1604111491 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0820 GMT 16 Apr 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 16 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists licking their wounds after a series of humiliating defeats in recent battles with the security forces in which they lost 700 cadres, are now attacking 'soft' (civilian) targets.

Army Commander Lieutenant General Hamilton Wanasinghe told LANKAPUVATH that following the recent set backs the LTTE had suffered at the hands of the military they could be going for 'soft' targets. Hence, Sunday night's (?massacre of) 17 civilians in the farming village of Ethimalai and recent attacks on fishermen at Trincomalee.

The army commander said government troops were attacking the terrorists from two directions at Murunkkan, the strategic junction town straddling the a 14 Mannar-Medawachiya Highway and north of Murunkkan.

The LTTE was reported to have suffered heavy casualties in the fighting, while one soldier was killed and four wounded.

Meanwhile, Special Task Force [STF] commandos were reported in hot pursuit of the group of terrorists, who butchered 17 men, women and children in farming colony 22 at Ethimalai in the Uva province district of Moneragala, 15 miles from the Ampara border.

The STF was reported to have received some vital information that would help them track down the killers in the thick jungles.

There was also sporadic terrorist fire at the Karainagar naval base in Jaffna. But, there were no casualties.